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Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meet Opens 9 Oct

BK0910040891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0341 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Commonwealth finance ministers Wednesday began their annual meeting here to review the world economic situation, discuss issues likely to arise at the World Bank-International Monetary Fund meetings, and consider functional cooperation activities of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

At the meeting, opened by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, the focus of attention will be on international economic and political change. In this context, they will consider a report of a Commonwealth group of experts.

Senior officials, who met Tuesday to prepare the agenda for the ministerial meeting, have expressed satisfaction with the wide range of topics covered in the report which also made several recommendations for developing countries in the Commonwealth to adopt to achieve economic progress.

The recommendations call for, among other things, reduction of budget deficits, the introduction of non-expansionary monetary policies, reforming of tax systems, and reassessing the role of the private sector in economic development.

The meeting, which will be chaired by Malaysian Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim, will discuss privatisation which many Commonwealth countries are embarking on as part of economic adjustment programmes. Malaysia's experience in this area is likely to be a focus of the discussions.

They are also expected to discuss the urgency for a speedier and successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Their talks will also touch on the need to enhance the World Bank's commitments during the 90s and the need to carry forward the women-oriented focus in the bank's activity.

In reviewing the functional cooperation activities of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the ministers will discuss a range of issues including programmes designed to assist macro-economic policy formulation and debt management.

Malaysia's Mahathir Opens Commonwealth Meeting

Rebuffs New Aid Conditions

BK0910055891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0509 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad Wednesday advised Commonwealth finance ministers not to accede to the World Bank's insistence of new conditions for aid and loans, saying that as a group, they should understand the problems faced by their weakest members and help fend off the more extreme demands that would be made upon them.

They should appreciate the difficulties of the weak, the recipients of aid and the debtors, he said when opening the two-day annual Commonwealth finance ministers meeting here.

He said if the Commonwealth countries work in concert and decide on common stands after the meeting of the finance ministers where the voices of the weak members had been heard, then it may be possible for the Commonwealth as a group or for the stronger members of the Commonwealth to lend weight to the arguments and pleas of the weak.

"The need for the weak to be heard is much more urgent now for we hear talks of linking aid and trade to democracy, human rights, workers' rights, and the environment," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said he hoped that the participation of the ministers at the meeting was not just of logistical convenience as it is a common practice for them to meet before going on to meet the finance ministers and central bankers from other parts of the world at the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

This year's World Bank/IMF annual meeting will be held in Bangkok.

"I hope that you will hold substantive discussions which will help you to appreciate the financial and other problems of the countries of the Commonwealth, to understand each other, formulate certain common stands which will be beneficial to the members as a whole," he said.

He said there was often a great disparity between the powers wielded by the members of the world fora that a small country was often completely lost, its voice completely ignored and its interests relegated to the background.

He said that aid and trade were two things that concern all the finance ministers as even the rich countries which do not need aid have to manage their finances well if they were to remain prosperous.

"So let us not be too ready to condemn failure and apply sanctions, but instead let us help each other first," he added.

Some countries would be successful while some others failed in managing their finance, he said, adding that Malaysia believed in learning from others.

The prime minister said the debtors and recipients of aid must also acknowledge their need to accept reasonable actions.

"No one will help if that help is going to be frittered away or to be used to oppress or sustain authoritarian rule," he added.

He said the restructuring of debts cannot be resolved by merely asking the debtors to practice thrift and cut back on development.

The lenders and agencies must actively provide guidance and help while debtors must accept guidance and direct help, he added.

"It is acknowledged that there may be political reasons for recalcitrance on the part of the debtors," he said. "This should not be simply condemned. They should be studied and solutions found."

Suggests Ministers 'Upgrade' Skills

BK0910060291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0515 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 9 (BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Wednesday suggested that Commonwealth finance and economic ministers help one another upgrade their skills for sound financial management.

He said wealth can be dissipated in no time but skills can sustain wealth and make it grow.

"Some of us are successful and some of us fail in the management of our finances," he said when opening the Commonwealth finance ministers meeting (CFMM) here.

He said Malaysia believed in learning from others and devised the "Look East Policy," not because "we want to be a colony of Japan but because we feel we can learn from how Japan managed to emerge from a most devastating war, including the destruction by atom bombs to become the greatest economic power."

Dr. Mahathir said that even the rich countries which need no aid have to manage their finances well if they are going to remain prosperous.

He said it is not just having money that counts. It is how that money is spent and invested that will determine whether the country will develop and grow or regress and wither away.

The prosperity of the people or the country depends very much on the skills of the minister of finance, on the power and influence he wields, he said.

"The minister of finance in any country has an enormous responsibility. Of course, if the minister of finance has no money at all, there is precious little that he can do," he added.

Urges Learning From Japan

OW0910062391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0546 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said Wednesday Third World nations can learn from Japan's economic policies in their effort to successfully develop their economies.

Mahathir, who introduced the "Look East" policy in 1981 which called for Malaysians to emulate the Japanese work ethic, told a meeting of finance ministers from Britain and its 49 former colonies that Malaysia believed in learning from others.

He told the British Commonwealth ministers that Malaysia introduced the policy "not because we want to be a colony of Japan but because we feel we can learn from how Japan managed to emerge from a most devastating war, including the destruction by atom bombs to become the greatest economic power."

Malaysia registered economic growth of 10 percent last year.

Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku said earlier at the meeting that Malaysia's vibrant economy was the envy of many developing countries.

Forty-six ministers are attending the two-day meeting to discuss new initiatives to provide significant debt relief for poor nations before the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meet in Bangkok next week.

They will seek support for the initiatives from the richer countries at Bangkok, especially for a British proposal called the "Trinidad and Tobago" terms, which will cancel two-thirds of the debts and reschedule the rest over 24 years.

The proposal, promoted by commonwealth members Britain and Canada at the Group of Seven meetings, has won the support of most creditor nations. The United States does not back the plan because of technicalities linking debt forgiveness to budgetary procedure.

Anyaoku said he understood that the U.S. was trying to resolve that issue.

Mahathir stressed the importance for groups such as the commonwealth to speak up for smaller, weaker nations at international meetings.

"The need for the weak to be heard is much more urgent now for we hear talks of linking aid and trade to democracy, human rights, workers' rights, and the environment," he said.

He pointed out that the World Bank is considering new conditions on aid and loans, such as rejecting projects deemed harmful to the environment, including hydroelectric power dams.

"Punishment by deprivation is not the only means of correcting aberration," said Mahathir, who has criticized what he perceives as the selectiveness of western countries in interpreting what is a democracy.

The commonwealth finance ministers also will discuss increasing aid and investment flow to developing nations, ensuring the successful completion of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations, and privatization programs.

ASEAN Ministers, U.S. Envoy Begin Talks

BK0910053691 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0506 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—ASEAN economic ministers (AEM) and United States Trade Representative (USTR) Mrs. Carla Hills began talks Wednesday in efforts to boost trade and investment as well as to overcome trade disputes between them.

In her opening remarks, Hills expressed confidence that both ASEAN and the U.S. would have more areas of agreement in trade rather than differences within a short span of time through regular consultations.

Also, she called for both parties to pool their resources with a common strategy to ensure a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The meeting between the AEM and the USTR marks the first dialogue between the six economic ministers and the U.S following the memorandum of understanding on trade and investment signed in Washington last December to boost economic linkages between them.

She said such meetings would go a long way in boosting imports and exports besides enabling both sides to examine problem areas such as market access, copyright protection, and intellectual property rights.

Both Hills and Malaysia's minister for international trade and industry, Rafidah Aziz, agreed that it was important for their private sectors to provide the stimulus to enhance trade.

As such, Rafidah, who is chairman of the AEM, said, the private sector of both parties should draw up appropriate plans and programmes.

The U.S. is the largest market for ASEAN exports and a major investor in the region.

Further on ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting

Endorse Asian Economic Caucus

BK0910065291 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Malaysia's proposal for an East Asia economic group has been endorsed by an ASEAN economic ministers meeting. However, it will now be known as the East Asian Economic Caucus [EAEC]. This decision was taken by the ASEAN ministers during their 23rd meeting which ended in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Malaysia's international trade and industry minister, Datuk Sri Rafidah Rafidah Aziz, said the two-day meeting also agreed that an ASEAN free trade area be established within 15 years. In this respect, the meeting was aimed for common perspective preferential tariffs [words indistinct] 5 percent for manufactured products.

The ministers also agreed on various initiatives for the expansion of ASEAN trade, investments, and economic cooperation.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed today expressed satisfaction at ASEAN's endorsement of the East Asia Economic Caucus. Asked by a newsman whether it varied from Malaysia's proposal, he said it was only in the interpretation of others on what the grouping was. But, it does not vary from ASEAN's concept. The EAEC has always be intended to be a forum where countries of East Asia can meet to discuss common issues relating to world trade.

Determination for 'Integrated Package'

BK0910055191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Oct 91 p 7

[Text] Kuala Lumpure—ASEAN economic ministers yesterday expressed strong determination to implement an "integrated package" of new initiatives for trade liberalisaiton that will for the first itme turn the region into a full free trade area in the next 15 years.

The ministers last night ended their two-day meeting here with the official adoption of economic schemes including Thailand's proposal for the establishment of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the formation of a consultative forum for economic issues of common concern to East Asian economies.

But they decided to change the originally proposed name of the forum from East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) to East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) in a bid to allay fears and misconception that the group was meant to be a regional trading bloc.

Responding to scepticism that the new schemes the ministers just adopted would fail to boost intra-ASEAN trade like the ones being enforced, Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz, who chaired the meeting, said the deliberation of the issues had been motivated by a sense of pragmatism.

"In our discussions we kept in mind that it is useless for ASEAN to just discuss and come up with initiatives which look good on paper but cannot be implemented because of any constraints. We are resolved not to let this happen," she said.

Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said there is an immediate sense of urgency among the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to transform these initiatives, which are more definite and bolder than what ASEAN has ever come up with, into practise.

The ministers assigned their senior officials to work out the substance of these intitiatives for form a "Framework Agreement" to be signed by the heads of the governments of ASEAN at the fourth ASEAN summit scheduled for January in Singapore.

The new initiatives, aside from AFTA, involves the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) arrangement proposed by Indonesia, Singapore's "Growth Triangle" concept, the Framework of Agreement for ASEAN economic cooperation as mooted by the Philippines. Their common objective is to strengthen the intra- ASEAN trade and investment which currently is at a low level.

The ministers resolved that ASEAN gradually liberalise its market so that within the next 15 years all manufactured goods, except raw agricultural products produced by members states can move freely in the region with no import tax and non-tariff barriers.

Sectors of industrial products, yet to be worked out, will be gradually eased in to this arrangement, with tariff in the range of 0-5 per cent—a mechanism envisaged in the CEPT scheme.

The adoption of the proposal to set up EAEC by the ministers yesterday means that ASEAN has become the core of the caucus which will discuss issues of common concern to East Asian economies.

According to the joint press statement, the ministers agreed to convene EAEC and to meet "as and when the need arises." EAEC will not be institutionalised and would not be a trading bloc.

Rafidah reiterated that the role of EAEC, despite the change of name, remains unchanged from what was originally proposed by Malaysia—to enable the East Asian economies to have a bigger say in world trade negotiations for the promotion of free trade.

While ASEAN has yet to work out details of the EAEC plan, the Malaysian minister said the failed Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiation would be the main issue which the caucus would focus on.

She indicated that ASEAN, having adopted the EAEC proposal, would proceed to invite Japan, which has so far not expressed support for EAEC despite previous calls by Malaysia to participate.

The ministers, meanwhile, reaffirmed their strong commitment to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round and urged the West to adopt greater flexibility to contribute to the success of the negotiations.

At the same time, they expressed concern over increasing protectionism by industrialised countries for their agricultural sector through farm subsidies. They expressed their serious concern over the Western countries' use of environmental issues as a pretext to impose trade restrictive measures on developing countrties.

Approve 8 Joint Ventures

BK0910072791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Oct 91 p B1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—The ASEAN economic ministers yesterday endorsed eight new Asean Industrial Joint Ventures (AIJV) in manufacturing and agro processing and extended the brand-to-brand complementation scheme to include non-automative products such as services and infrastructure.

On the final of the two-day economic ministers' meeting in Kuala Lumpur, the six-ASEAN nations agreed to relax and improve terms of economic cooperation in the region. The endorsement for the AIJV projects is part of the attempt to promote trade and investment within ASEAN.

The eight AIJV projects, promoted by the six ASEAN countries, will receive protection, capital support and generous tax terms from all the member countries.

The first project involves the production of enamel by Indonesia and Malaysia. The second project is a cooperative venture between Indonesia and Thailand to produce aluminium hydroxide. The third project is a joint investment between Malaysia and Indonesia to manufacture heavy equipment.

The other four projects, initiated by local subsidiaries of Switzerland-based food giant, Nestle Co, involve the production of breakfast cereal, soya-based milk, chocolate wafers, soya sauce powder and non-daily creamers. All the six ASEAN countries will participate in the investments. So far, the locations of the manufacturing bases have yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, the ASEAN ministers have decided to extend the brand-to-brand complementation scheme to cover services and infrastructure projects in addition to automobile parts.

So far, most of the projects under this scheme are to promote the exchange of car parts among Japanese car makers in ASEAN countries with the ultimate goal to specialize production of particular parts and components in any of the member countries.

According to a communique issued yesterday after the meeting, the ASEAN ministers also approved six new projects in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors. These include the establishment of the ASEAN Seed Research and Seed Technology Development Centre in Thailand.

Japan

Diplomatic Ties Resumed With Baltic States

OW0910081591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 09 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—Japan on Wednesday resumed diplomatic ties with the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which now are independent from the Soviet Union, the Foreign Ministry said.

Japan's parliamentary Vice Minister Foreign Affairs Muneo Suzuki exchanged diplomatic documents on establishing relations with officials of the three countries in Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius, the capitals of the republics, the officials said.

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which seceded from the Soviet Union after the failed coup in August, joined the United Nations last month.

Japan had recognized the three countries as independent states before the Soviet Union annexed them in August 1940 under a secret agreement with Nazi Germany.

Suzuki, who left Tokyo last Saturday, is currently on an eight-day tour of the three Baltic states.

LDP Officials Cautious on Further Soviet Aid

OW0910103191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—Senior officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) were cautious on Wednesday toward Japan's further economic assistance to the Soviet Union in addition to the 2.5 billion dollar package announced Tuesday, government officials said.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama gave a briefing on the fresh assistance package at a meeting between government and LDP officials, saying Japan should continue efforts to help the Soviet Union become a partner of Western nations.

The announcement of the Japanese aid package came Tuesday, after the European Community (EC) pledged to provide 2.5 billion dollars in emergency food and medical supplies to the Soviet Union.

LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi expressed support for the plan in principle but urged the government to take a cautious stance on further aid to the Soviet Union.

He called on the government to study Soviet aid policies after discussions at the upcoming series of meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries, officials said.

Some other LDP officials urged that the government's move not be misinterpreted by the Japanese people as an attempt to win the return of disputed Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido in return for financial aid to the Soviet Union.

Nakayama told the session Japan should shift its emphasis in negotiation over the territorial dispute from the Kremlin to the Russian federation.

Government To Defer to EC on SFRY Sanctions

OW0810121491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 8 KYODO—Japan will follow the lead of the European Community (EC) in deciding whether to implement economic and political sanctions against Yugoslavia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Taizo Watanabe told reporters the government is deferring to the EC because its member nations are more directly involved with events in Yugoslavia.

The EC has indicated it will soon impose sanctions against Yugoslavia, such as the scrapping of a trade and economic agreement. Canada and the United States have also said they would consider sanctions.

The sanctions would be intended to protest the failure of he parties to the Yugoslav conflict to reach a cease-fire during a three-month moratorium on seccessionist moves by Slovenia and Croatia that ended Monday.

The moratorium was initiated July 7 after independence declarations by the two republics on June 25 sparked conflict with the Serbian-controlled federal army, a conflict which has so far resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 people.

Both Croatia and Slovenia have vowed to continue their fight for independence.

Foreign Ministry Softens View of EAEG Formula

OW0910110291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text](Asian News) Tokyo, Oct. 10 KYODO—Japan has softened its position toward the idea of forming an East Asian Economic Grouping [EAEG], a senior Foreign Ministry official indicated Wednesday.

The source was referring to Tuesday's decision by the economic ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to endorse the formation of an East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) that would ideally include Japan.

"The discussions now appear to be proceeding in a good direction," the source said.

Japan's position so far has been that it will remain neutral on the idea of a new regional economic grouping pending a consensus being achieved among ASEAN.

which groups Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, and Brunei.

But Japan has stressed at the same time that any such grouping must remain "open," an allusion to Japan's opposition to the proposed exclusion of the United States.

The source appeared to indicate Japan expects revisions in the original proposal by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed for an East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG), saying Japan "could not go along 100 percent" with Mahathir's idea.

Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz told reporters Tuesday that the new consultative group "will not be an institutionalized entity and will not be a trading bloc."

Okinawa Debates Setting Up U.S. Liaison Office

OW0710115891 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 4 Oct 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] On 3 October questioning from the morning session of the regular September prefectural assembly carried over into the afternoon as the six opposition-party members concentrated on the government's stance on the following issues: establishing a liaison office in Washington; a lease contract for U.S. military base land; and upscaling the national tree-planting festival.

Concerning the establishment of the liaison office in the United States, Governor Ota said that "settlement of the base issues is of prime importance." Thus, he stressed that by establishing the office, emphasis will be placed on the base issue. Regarding its location, he disclosed the following: "We are still studying this issue. However, it seems that Washington, D.C., is an advantageous location for the office's activities." Regarding transferring troops from bases in the Philippines to the Kadena base, the governor said that "I would like to appeal directly to the foreign minister if necessary."

The assembly ended the day with a question and answer session for the opposition. Nine members of the governing party will pose their questions on 4 October.

In addition to gathering information on the base issue and promoting public relations with the media in the United States, exchanges with U.S.-based Okinawans and gathering economic information will be the purpose of the projects. Assuming the critical stance that "there may be a more suitable location other than Washington, D.C.," Masahiko Nakamatsu and Kosaburo Nishime of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] asked: "What is the most important project?" "How will the survey fee for the supplementary budget bill be used?"

Governor Ota explained: "Although all the projects are important, I would like to give priority to a location that is advantageous in settling the base issues." He also explained that the office will carry out "activities, as a local representative of those who suffer damages, rather than promoting diplomatic negotiations" regarding the base issues. Moreover, he said that "a study will be conducted regarding the office's location and its management." In consideration of the survey fee, he stated that "I think Washington, D.C.—where the U.S. Government, Congress, newspaper companies and news agencies are located—is a better location."

Military land lease is an issue on which the Landowners' Association for Prefectural Military Land and Other Matters (Tochiren) opposes the central government. They demand an increase in land lease fees and "say they are ready to withdraw the contract." Concerning the military land lease, Shigemasa Kinjo said: "The prefectural government should also ask the central government to protect the landowners' rights." While he "basically hoped for a satisfactory settlement between parties involved," Governor Ota said: "I will make an appeal to the federal government if there is a request from the Tochiren."

When Mr. Nishime's asked about the change in the post of deputy director of the Foundation for International Exchanges from a part-time to full-time position, Shinichi Oshiro, director of governor's executive office, explained: "The deputy director's personnel expenses is 10,650,000 yen per year. We made it a full-time position so that the deputy director may give undivided attention to such tasks as fund raising."

On unifying the Foundation for International Exchanges and the Human Resources Development Center [Jinzai Ikusei Zaidan], Mitsuo Gima questioned the merger: "Are not their missions different from each other?" Director Oshiro responded: "We are discussing an outline to reform the prefectural administrative structure. Currently, we are not considering unification as a precondition."

In addition, the Katsuhide Higa (of the LDP) asked about promoting the northern region, including an early completion of the Kita Hokushin road construction. Hiroaki Sawamura, chief of Civil Engineering and Construction Department, answered: "We are investigating this. Since Development Agency Director Tani has indicated his interest in its realization, we would like to promote this through cooperation (with the Development Agency)."

Okinawan City Opposes Troop Transfer From Clark

OW0810133891 Naha NHK Television Network in Japanese 0315 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Regarding the fact that a special unit of the U.S. Air Force was transferred from Clark Base in the Philippines to Futenma Air Station, Ginowan City Assembly held an emergency meeting today and unanimously adopted a resolution and a written opinion, demanding an immediate halt to the deployment.

The unit belongs to the 353d Special Operations Air Wing of Clark Base in the Philippines. It is composed of

385 troops and aircraft, including helicopters and transport airplanes. Of these, 85 troops and a helocopter were temporarily deployed at Futenma Air Station and others at Kadena Air Base.

Ginowan City held the extraordinary meeting to protest against this deployment. A proposal was made at the meeting to adopt a demand resolution and a written opinion to oppose the deployment. The resolution and the written opinion say: We absolutely cannot allow the deployment of the U.S. Force at Futenma Air Station because it not only compels the city residents, who have been suffering so far from various base damages, including noise created by airplanes at the time of their takeoffs and landings, to make additional sacrifices but also is connected to further fortification of the bases. We vehemently protest against the deployment and strongly demand its immediate suspension.

The meeting unanimously adopted the resolution and the written opinion, copies of which will be sent to organizations concerned of Japan and the United States.

Returning Minesweepers Plan Singapore Stopover

OW0810141391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1151 GMT 08 Oct 91

[Text] Singapore, Oct. 8 KYODO—A flotilla of Japanese minesweepers, on its way back to Japan after clearing Iraqi-laid mines in Persian Gulf waters off Kuwait, will call at Singapore on Sunday for replenishment and recreation, the Japanese Embassy said Tuesday.

The four minesweepers and a supply ship, the minesweeper tender Hayase, visited Singapore in May while sailing to the Gulf to join 11 other countries in the minesweeping operations.

They will be in Singapore until October 15.

The vessels were dispatched on Japan's first operational deployment abroad since World War II despite criticisms from opposition party leaders that the move violated Japan's constitution.

The embassy said the minesweepers had "taken charge of the area regarded as the most dangerous," and disposed of 34 mines altogether.

It said that during the stay in Singapore there will be friendship exchange activities between the 510-strong Japanese crew, and the Singaporean navy.

Although Singapore suffered from Japanese occupation during World War II, most Singaporeans seem nonchalant about the minesweepers' visits.

Aerospace Technology Conference Opens in Gifu

OW0710223091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Gifu, Oct. 7 (KYODO)—About 500 aerospace technology experts from 10 countries attended the opening day of a four-day conference in Gifu Prefecture on Monday to promote technology and personnel exchanges in the field.

"Japan has a high quality of aeropspace technology especially in developing materials," Nobuhiko Kamiya, a researcher at Japan's National Aerospace Laboratory, said in his keynote speech.

J. M. S. Keen, a vice president of the London-based International Aero Engines, called for cooperation among the participating countries, saying that one nation could not sufficiently develop its own aerospace technology.

Among the countries sending experts to the forum were the United States, the Soviet Union, and Taiwan.

Joint-Australian Gas Exploration Project Begins

OW0910012191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0019 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Co. has begun to explore for coal seam gas in a mine in Australia, jointly with Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. and C. Itoh and Co., an industrial daily reported Wednesday.

Mitsubishi plans to convert methane gas from the coal seam into methanol and import it to meet growing demand in Japan, the NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN said.

The joint venture, with a 73 percent equity by Mitsubishi and 13 percent each by the two other partners, has started searching for gas deposits in a sedimentary basin in Queensland which is believed to contain huge methane gas deposits within an approximately 130 trillion square feet coal seam, the paper said.

The venture will start test exploration by the end of 1994 and begin production on a commercial basis in 1995 at the earliest.

Total project costs are estimated at about 30 billion yen, it said.

Kaifu Stresses Urgency of Expanding Imports

OW0910020891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0147 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday stressed the urgent necessity for the government to actively tackle the task of expanding imports and also appealed to the private sector to cooperate.

Presiding at the annual trade conference of cabinet ministers and heads of private companies and groups, Kaifu referred to the recent expansion of Japan's trade surplus.

According to the conference's secretariat, Japan's trade surplus for the April-August period jumped 75 percent from a year earlier to 40.2 billion dollars and is likely to continue increasing.

Ministries and government offices concerned are implementing measures to meet requests made by domestic and foreign specialists this spring at the first import meeting held under the auspices of the trade conference, government officials said.

Among those requests are improvement in customs clearance procedures at airports and assistance to foreign companies in finding workers in Japan, the officials said.

Wednesday's conference, attended by some 30 people, was the 13th in the series and took place in what has been designated import-expansion month, they said.

Trade Minister Notes Need To Open Market

OW0910042691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0350 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—With Japan's external trade gap growing at an alarming pace, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday pledged further efforts to boost imports.

Presiding over the annual trade conference of cabinet ministers and private-sector officials, Kaifu also reiterated Japan's commitment to bringing the stalled Uruguay round of global trade talks to a successful conclusion by the end of the year.

The conference, the 13th of its kind, comes at a time when Japan's trade surplus, under control over the recent years, is once again posing a potential threat to the country's relations with the outside world.

According to government studies, Japan's trade imbalance in the April-August period increased a whopping 75.0 percent from a year earlier to 40.2 billion dollars, as unabatedly robust exports overwhelmed slowing imports.

The trade surplus with the United States, Japan's most critical trade partner, has been steadily diminishing, but the bilateral gap still accounts for more than 70 percent of the total U.S. trade deficit, against 30-40 percent over the last five years.

With purchases of paintings and luxury cars flagging due to the burst of the speculative bubble, the imbalance with the European Community (EC) has sown the seeds of further trade friction.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Eiichi Nakao told the conference that Japan needs to further open its market to foreign goods "not only to shave the external imbalance but also to upgrade the national standard of living," ministry officials said.

The conference also received a report from its panel, the import board, on complaints and proposals concerning efforts to improve market access for foreigners.

The board, comprising about 30 Japanese and foreign officials, called for further government action in the areas of government procurement, market transparency, and nontariff barriers like an inadequate import-related infrastructure, strict quarantine standards, and tenacious "keiretsu" exclusive business groupings.

Central Bank To 'Stick' With Current Policy

OW0910091691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 09 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno on Wednesday flatly dismissed the possibility that Japan's interest rates would be cut in coordination with cuts in other leading industrial countries. [passage omitted]

Shrugging off calls from business leaders, particularly in smaller companies, for an early cut in the key rate, Mieno said the central bank will stick to the current monetary policy.

Prices are not yet fully under control and the economy, although showing signs of slowing down, remains on firm footing, he said.

He said core consumer prices, excluding volatile factors in food prices, are still climbing, rising in September a brisk 3.0 percent from a year earlier in the Tokyo metropolitan area. The central bank chief also repeated his earlier statement that the foreign-exchange rate should reflect the fundamentals of each country's economy.

He, however, declined to comment on the current market levels, which have the yen in strong demand on the back of widespread speculation that finance officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations will endorse a stronger yen at their Bangkok meeting this weekend.

Mieno also said neither the BOJ's monetary stance nor the economy will be affected by the "political vacuum" before and after the upcoming race for the next president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

"It is unimaginable the economy will show a major shift over the next few months. It is equally unthinkable for us to need to alter the money policy dramatically," he said.

Mieno also discussed the recent BOJ decision to cut bank reserve requirement ratios, effective from October 16, saying the step was primarily done to make it easier for the BOJ to make market adjustments.

He said, however, that the action also was taken with the expectation that it will help ease costs for banks, and thus has the effect of a credit relaxation.

The BOJ announced early this month it would cut the amount of cash that banks must deposit in the BOJ, the first such move in 10 years.

Kanemaru Abandons Plan To Field LDP Candidate

OW0910110691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 09 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—The largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Wednesday gave up its plan to field its own candidate for the party's October 27 presidential election, faction sources said.

Shin Kanemaru, chairman of the LDP's largest faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Taskeshita, said at a factional meeting, "I have made efforts to field our own candidate but the situation has become hopeless."

Kanemaru said his faction has no choice but to support one of the three declared hopefuls to succeed Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who bowed out of the race after a package of political reforms bills he had been pushing was scrapped in the Diet last week.

Kaifu's angry response to the lack of sufficient party support to get the bills passed subsequently cost him the backing of Kanemaru, without whose faction Kaifu stood little chance of being reselected.

Since the LDP enjoys a comfortable majority in the powerful House of Representatives, the new LDP president will automatically become the next prime minister.

The contenders are former Deputy Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, 72, former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, 68, and former Transport Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, 64. They are leaders of three of the LDP's five factions.

The Takeshita faction agreed to leave the choice as to which candidate to support up to Kanemaru.

The 105-member Takeshita faction holds the key in choosing the party's next president. The Mitsuzuka faction has 89 Diet members and the Miyazawa faction 82, while the group led by Watanabe has 70 parilamentarians.

Tokyo Broadcasting Head Resigns Over Scandal

OW0910110091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—The President of Tokyo Broadcasting System Inc. (TBS), Izumi Tanaka, announced his resignation Wednesday to assume responsibility for the company's involvement in a brokerages scandal.

Tanaka announced the decision at a meeting of the TBS board of directors, officials said.

Hirozo Isozaki, a managing director, will take over the TBS presidency and Tanaka will become an adviser to the company, they said.

TBS, one of five major commercial TV stations in Tokyo, received 291 million yen from Nikko Securities Co. in compensation for a stock and bond trading loss.

TBS was the only mass media organization to receive compensation from a securities company involved in the scandal.

New Technology for 256MB DRAM Semiconductors

OW0810130091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT 08 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 8 KYODO—Takasago Thermal Engineering Co. has come up with new static electricity-neutralization technology for chips that pave the way for mass production of next-generation, 256-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) semiconductors.

A 256-megabit DRAM would have a memory capacity 64 times more efficient than a 4-megabit DRAM, the most advanced chip available in mass production.

The leading airconditioning engineering firm said the technology, which was achieved in conjunction with a researcher at Tohoku University, and utilizes ultraviolet rays for neutralizing static electricity on silicon wafers, is the world's first.

Using the technique, static electricity can be removed from chips while keeping them out of the air, which makes it possible to make chips more accurate without the effects of impurities in the air, the company said.

Takasago said the technology overcomes one obstacle to mass production of large memory capacity chips such as 16-megabit, 64-megabit, and 256-megabit DRAMs, which require sophisticated static electricity-neutralization methods as static electricity can damage circuits etched on a tiny wafer.

The company said it plans to launch semiconductor-manufacturing equipment using the new technology by June.

The new technology will be announced at a meeting of the Electrochemical Society of the United States, which is slated for October 13-17 in the United States, the company added.

LCD Makers Appeal U.S. Antidumping Rule

OW0910023191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0046 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 9 KYODO—Japanese makers of Liquid Crystal Displays (LCDs) have filed an appeal before the U.S. Court of International Trade seeking nullification of a U.S. Government decision imposing

antidumping duties on their products, the NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) voted on August 15 to authorize duties of 62.67 percent on shipments of active-matrix LCD panels from Japan.

Sharp Corp., Toshiba Corp., and five other LCD makers lodged the appeal before the trade court Tuesday against the steep antidumping duties on thin-film transistors and other active-matrix LCD panels, the newspaper said.

The appeal is expected to heighten tensions between the U.S. and Japan over trade, it said.

The other Japanese manufacturers involved in the appeal are Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Hitachi Ltd., Hosiden Corp., NEC Corp., and Seiko Epson Corp.

Nippon Steel Develops Vacuum Tube-Based Chip

OW0510152091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0820 GMT 05 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 5 KYODO—Nippon Steel Corp., in yet another bid to diversify its business, has developed an experimental chip that contains ultramicro vacuum tubes instead of the transistors used in most chips now available, a company official said Saturday.

The official said the achievement is a step forward toward developing a vacuum-tube-based chip that scientists believe operates well in severe conditions such as space as it is resistant to heat and radiation.

The prototype model, based on a new electrocode-making method, contains 125 micron-level vacuum tubes each of which measure microns on a silicon wafer, the official said.

One micron equals one millionth of a meter.

Scientists say such a chip must contain hundreds of vacuum tubes in a tiny wafer for practical use. A vacuum-based chip is said to run more than 10 times faster than conventional chips using transistors.

The official said his company will continue research efforts to develop a chip containing more vacuum tubes on a wafer for use as a high-frequency amplifier at power plants.

Researchers in Japan, the United States, and other industrial nations are now in a race to develop a vacuum-based chip, regarded as the next-generation high-speed microprocessor.

'Fuzzy Logic' Workstations Set To Debut in Jan

OW0810111691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 08 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 8 KYODO—Omron Corp. said it will begin selling two new workstations in Japan next year which use fuzzy logic to perform high speed data processing, company officials said Tuesday.

The Fuzzy Luna II and Luna 88K workstations will debut in the Japanese market next January, the officials said.

Japanese manufacturers have already adopted fuzzy logic chips for use in air conditioners, washing machines, video cameras, and other electronically-controlled products to improve reliability and operation.

Fuzzy logic, known as "aimai" in Japanese, is a specially-designed computer that attempts to mimic human logic to solve problems from imprecise data.

Omron's computers adopt the Unix operating system, popular with scientists and engineers, as opposed to U.S.-based Microsoft Inc's disk operating system (MS-DOS), for high speed processing of data.

The computers are ideal for designing product databases, performing business analysis, and improvement accessments, and detecting problems in manufacturing, among others, the officials said.

The Luna II model will be priced from 2.56 million yen and the Luna 88K from 3.95 million yen, they said.

Omron projects sales of 1,200 units for 1992, officials said.

Hitachi To Sell Fault Tolerant Computers

OW0710112591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 7 KYODO—Hitachi Ltd. said Monday it will begin selling Tuesday so-called fault tolerant computers, which keep running 24 hours a day even if a component fails.

These machines have spread rapidly among financial firms and airline reservation networks as fail-safe back-up systems to support host computers.

The Hitac FT6100 machine, which uses three processors, will be aimed initially at customers which already use large host computers from Hitachi, Hitachi officials said.

A machine will sell for 150 million yen, the officials said.

Hitachi is the third Japanese computer maker to leap into this fast growing market dominated by two American companies—Tandem Computers Inc. of Cupertino, California, and Stratus Computer Inc. of Marlboro, Massachusetts.

Hitachi officials project the market to grow 45 percent in terms of yen in 1991 from the 28 billion yen market registered last year.

Last September Fujitsu Ltd. introduced its own fail-safe computer in an effort to grab a piece of the market.

NEC Corp. and IBM Japan have already started selling fault tolerant computers made by Stratus computer on a original equipment manufacturer basis under their own brand name.

Government To Subsidize Crude Oil Retrieval

OW0710112491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Osaka, Oct. 7 KYODO—Toyo Tire and Rubber Co. said Monday it will receive a government subsidy for development of crude oil retrieval technology.

The Osaka-based company said a governmental organization affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry pledged about 400 million yen or half of the development cost over the next five years.

The company said the technology being developed in partnership with the Government Industrial Research Institute of Osaka involves a system to retrieve crude oil from the sea surface using inflated urethane foam.

The system will be able to retrieve oil 40 times heavier than the weight of the urethane foam, the company said.

The company said it is planning commercial production of the system in the future.

Keidanren Urges Doubling of Science Budget

OW0810135891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 8 KYODO—The Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) urged in a report released Tuesday science and technology's share in the nation's budget be doubled to account for 1 percent of the nation's gross national product (GNP) in five years.

Keidanren said about 11 trillion yen per year is now spent on scientific research and development, but the government funds only 17 percent of this, compared with 30-40 percent in Western countries.

The report warned Japan is neglecting preparations for the future, as government funding is mainly given for basic research, which supports the basis of private-sector technology.

Keidanren said the year-to-year increase in the science and technology budget has remained at an average 3.7 percent, while funding for higher education has risen only 3.5 percent per year.

Reduction in the recruitment of civil servants is also causing a shortage of researchers, it said.

North Korea

Kim Il-song Tours PRC's Shandong Province

Tours Taian Tomb, Mountain

SK0810122791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1000 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK, who is visiting the PRC amid the fraternal Chinese people's warm hospitality, visited Taian City in Shandong Province the morning of 8 October.

Visiting Taian City with him were Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Kim Yong-sun, member and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Chu Chang-chun, member of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to China; and Comrade Kang Sok- chu, alternate member of the WPK Central Committee and first vice foreign minister, and other suite members.

Accompanying him were Comrade Wu Xueqian, member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council; Comrade Zhu Liang, member of the CPC Central Committee and head of the International Liaison Department of the party Central Committee; Comrade Jiang Chunyun, member of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Shandong Provincial Party Committee; Comrade Zhao Zhihao, governor of the Shandong Provincial People's Government; Comrade Xu Dunxin, vice foreign minister; Comrade Shi Xiyu, vice minister of railways; and Comrade Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK.

Welcoming and guiding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song were Comrade Hu Jianxue, secretary of the Taian Municipal Party Committee; Comrade Qu Jinxian, deputy secretary; Comrade (Chang Xingu), acting mayor of the Taian Municipal People's Government; and Comrade (Song Kuangji), vice mayor; and other responsible functionaries from the Taian Municipal party and power organs.

Taian City was filled with a festive mood, great emotion and joy while receiving the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. .

Red flags and streamers were flying in the city streets and at the railway station. A large crowd, youths, and students welcomed with enthusiasm the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on the streets and in the plaza in front of the railway station.

Guided by the leading officials of Shandong Province and Taian City, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song

first inspected the grand tomb, a historic downtown relic. The grand tomb is one of the oldest historic relics indicative of the resourcefulness and creative talents of the working people of ancient China.

After hearing an explanation about the historic relic, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song toured the grand tomb.

The great leader toured Mt. Taishan, China's famous mountain located in the northern section of Taian City.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song then looked down from (?Chungchonmen) which houses many cultural relics and offers scenic beauty located in the middle of Mt. Taishan.

The secretary of the Taian City Party Committee presented to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song a gift carrying the citizens' best wishes for his long life.

The great leade Comrade Kim Il-song left a souvenir for the grand tomb and Mt. Taishan employees.

Citizens of the city warmly saw off the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who had visited their city.

Arrives Qufu 8 Oct

SK0810160191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK, arrived in Qufu City. The citizens of Qufu City enthusiastically welcomed him.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK, arrived in Qufu City in the southern region of Shandong Province on the afternoon of 8 October.

Accompanying him were Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Kim Yong-sun, member and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Chu Chang-chun, member of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the PRC; and Comrade Kang Sok-chu, alternate member of the WPK Central Committee and first vice foreign minister, and other suite members.

Accompanying him were Comrade Wu Xueqian, member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council; Comrade Zhu Liang, member of the CPC Central Committee and head of the International Liaison Department of the party Central Committee; Comrade Jiang Chunyun, member of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Shandong Provincial Party Committee; Comrade Zhao Zhihao, governor of the Shandong Provincial People's Government; Comrade Xu Dunxin, vice foreign minister; Comrade Shi Xiyu, vice minister of railways; and Comrade Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK.

Everywhere Qufu City greeted the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with welcoming scenes filled with great gratitude and joy. The premises of the station and the plaza in front of the station were filled with crowds that brought with them the flags of the two countries, bouquets, flower fans, and various other welcoming decorations, and showed endless feelings of adoration for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and warm feelings of friendship toward our people.

Welcoming and guiding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song were Comrade (Han O-kun), deputy secretary of the Jining Municipal Party Committee and mayor of the Jining People's Government; Comrade (So Pyong-i), deputy secretary of the Jining Municipal Party Committee; Comrade (Choe Pa), secretary of the Qufu Municipal Party Committee; Comrade (Pak Nipchun), mayor of the Qufu Municipal People's Government; and the responsible functionaries of the Qufu Municipal party and government organizations.

At 1620 Pyongyang Standard Time, the train boarded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song entered the platform of Qufu Station. Instantly there arose stormy cheers shaking the heaven and earth and the floral sea of welcome waved powerfully. The crowds enthusiastically welcomed the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, cheering, "We warmly welcome President Kim Il-song. Welcome, welcome, warm, warm welcome!"

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song responded to the cheering crowds by raising his hand, and exchanged greetings with the responsible functionaries of the party and government organizations welcoming and guiding him. A child presented the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with a fragrant bouquet.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song responded to the cheering crowds, got in a car, and headed for the guest house. Numerous crowds that turned out to line the streets from the station to the guest house enthusiastically and jubilantly welcomed the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Inspects Cultural Relics in Qufu

SK0910113691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1000 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK, toured such historical and cultural relics as Kongmiao, Kongfu, and Konglin in Qufu City, Shandong Province, on 9 October.

Touring these historic and cultural relics with him were Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Politburo and

secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Kim Yong-sun, member and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Chu Chang-chun, member of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to China; and Comrade Kang Sok-chu, alternate member of the WPK Central Committee and first vice foreign minister, and other suite members.

Accompanying him were Wu Xueqian, member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council; Comrade Zhu Liang, member of the CPC Central Committee and director of the International Liaison Department of the party Central Committee; Comrade Jiang Chunyun, member of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Shandong provincial party committee; Comrade Zhao Zhihao, governor of the Shandong provincial people's government; Comrade Xu Dunxin, vice minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK; and Comrade Han Yuqun, vice secretary of the Jining City committee of the CPC and mayor of the Jining City people's government.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was greeted by Comrade Xu Bingxi, vice secretary of the Jining city party committee; Comrade (Cui Bao), secretary of the Qufu city party committee; Comrade (Fang Liqun), mayor of the Qufu city people's government, and responsible museum functionaries.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, after hearing an explanation from the director of the museum, toured Kongmiao, Kongfu, and Konglin, as well as ancient cultural relics and units of the nation's major cultural relics that must be preserved. He then saw a traditional ceremony at Kongmiao.

After seeing the historic and cultural relics, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song left the following writing at the museum:

"High tribute to the ancient culture of China."

Citizens of Qufu City came out onto the streets to warmly welcome the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's visit to Qufu City.

Honored at Jining Banquet

SK0910030591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] The Jining City CPC Committee of Shandong Province and the Jining City People's Government arranged a dinner at the Kolbinsa on 8 October to welcome the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the DPRK, to Qufu City.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was invited to the dinner.

Inivited to the dinner were Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Yong-sun, member of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Chu Chang-chun, member of the WPK Central Committee and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of our country to the PRC; Comrade Kang Sok-chu, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and first vice minister of foreign affairs; and others.

Also present were Comrade Wu Xueqian, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council; Comrade Zhu Liang, member of the CPC Central Committee and director of the International Liaison Department of the party Central Committee; Comrade Jiang Chunyun, member of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Shangdong Province CPC Committee; Comrade Zhao Zhihao, governor of the Shangdong Provincial People's Government; Comrade Xu Dunxin, vice minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Shi Xiyu, vice minister of railways; Comrade Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country; Comrade Han Yuqun, vice secretary of the Jining City Committee of the CPC and mayor of the Jining City People's Government; Comrade Xu Bingxi, vice secretary of the Jining city party committee; Comrade (Cui Bao), secretary of the Qufu city party committee; Comrade (Fang Liqun), mayor of the Qufu City People's Government; and responsible party and government organs in Qufu City.

The dinner proceeded in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Leaves Qufu

SK0910153591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1525 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Qufu October 9 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song left Qufu today after his visit to Shandong Province.

Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, and suite members also left.

Also leaving were Wu Xueqian, Politburo member of the C.C., the Communist Party of China and vice-premier of the State Council, and Chinese officials concerned and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

The streets of Qufu and the railway station compound were in a warm farewell atmosphere.

The secretary of the Shandong provincial party committee who is also member of the C.C., the CPC, the governor of the Shandong provincial people's government and senior officials of party and government

bodies in Jining and Qufu were present at the platform to see off President Kim Il-song.

When President Kim Il-song arrived at the station, cheers "Warm farewell to President Kim Il-song!" and "Farewell, farewell, warm farewell!" burst forth.

President Kim Il-song exchanged greetings with the senior officials who came out to bid farewell to him.

He got on the train, waving to the enthusiastically cheering crowds.

U.S. 'Northward Invasion' Air Exercises Held

SK0910053691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 9 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists committed Monday a nuclear aerial joint strike exercise for northward invasion in the skies above Oeyon islet and Wonju of South Korea with the mobilization of formations of nuclear-capable fighter bombers based in Japan proper and overseas and formations of nuclear-capable fighter bombers of the U.S. 7th Airforce present in South Korea, according to military sources.

On the same day, 105 mm artillery groups of the South Korean puppet army, instigated by the U.S. imperialists, fired more than 30 shells in Chungsa-ri area, Yonchon County, moving toward the military demarcation line.

Formations of armed helicopters of the South Korean puppet army staged war exercises getting on our nerves in Cholwon, Yanggu and Rinje counties of South Korean Kangwon Province and Paju County of Kyonggi Province on October 4.

South Said Resorting to 'Fascist Repression'

SK0910054591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 9 Oct 91

["Anti-Reunification Fascist Frenzy at Its Height"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 9 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets are resorting to fascist repression of the pro-reunification patriotic forces at a time when our nation has turned out to reunify the country in the 1990s. This clearly proves that their talk about "dialogue" and "reunification" is a lie and the No Tae-u group has nothing but a sinister intention for confrontation and permanent split, stresses NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today.

The commentary says:

The No Tae-u ruling group is carrying out a total crackdown on Chondaehyop [National Council of Student University Representatives] with the mobilization of the puppet intelligence and surveillance network and police repressive force and, at the same time, viciously resorting to suppression of the patriotic, democratic organisations such as Chonminnyon [National Democratic Alliance of Korea], Chonnohyop [National Council of Labor Unions] and Chongyojo [National Teachers Trade Union].

This shows that the No Tae-u group's fascist repression to totally stifle the pro-reunification patriotic, democratic forces has reached an extremely reckless stage.

The puppets are nowadays fabricating false cases. This habitual method is a despicable act to harshly suppress the patriotic, democratic organisations and socially isolate and totally stifle them, by branding them as "enemy-benefiting organisations" and "forces seeking to overthrow the system" which are manipulated by someone.

By resorting to the desperate repressive offensive, the South Korean puppets aim to completely obliterate the pro-reunification patriotic, democratic forces and all other elements obstructive to the military fascist dictatorship, bridge over the present ruling crisis and realise their ambition for long-term office without much difficulty.

However desperately the No Tae-u ruling group wield the fascist bayonet, they can never block or break the people's will for independence, democracy and reunification.

The puppets must clearly see the trend of the times, immediately stop the criminal suppression of the pro-reunification patriotic, democratic forces including Chondaehyop and release at once all the illegally arrested patriotic students and people.

Cuban Official Praises Kim Il-song

SK0810152291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a peerless great man who has performed undying feats for the time and mankind, said Antonio Omar Cruz, vice-chairman of the Cuban Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification, in an interview with a KCNA reporter.

He said the Korean people, under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Il-song, won in the life-and-death struggle with the U.S. imperialists who boasted of being "the strongest" in the world and successfully established with the indomitable will the present powerful socialist state of independence, self-sustenance and self- reliance in defence even on the debris after the Korean war.

He said that the Korean people, upholding the banner of socialism, the banner of chuche, are advancing in fine array with the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses, displaying their might to the whole world.

Saying that the will and faith of the people to hold Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem and uphold the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea with loyalty are

overflowing in Korea, he stated that the Cuban and Korean peoples are vigorously displaying the socialist might under the wise leadership of their leaders in defiance of the imperialists' outcries over the "collapse of socialism".

He said he was deeply impressed by the reality of Korea: The leader, the party and the masses are united with the revolutionary comradeship and lofty faithfulness and the whole society like a big family lives harmoniously, helping and leading each other forward.

Cuban Workers Denounce IAEA Resolution

SK0910103191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 9 (KCNA)—The centre of the Cuban workers in a statement on September 27 denounced the unjustifiable "resolution" infringing on the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which was adopted at the September meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency owing to the insidious scheme of the United States, Japan and some other countries.

The statement resolutely supported the stand of the DPRK published against this illegal "resolution."

It demanded the withdrawal from South Korea of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons that pose a threat to peace and security not only in Korea but in Asia and the rest of the world.

WPK Greets Cuban Communist Congress

SK0910110591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 9 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The Communist Party of Cuba has covered an arduous yet glorious course of struggle, the message noted, and went on:

The Communist Party and people of Cuba have constantly increased the might of the socialist system while firmly defending the country and the gains of the revolution from the repeated armed intervention and blockade by the U.S. imperialists.

Today the Cuban people who are rallied closely under the leadership of the Communist Party headed by respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, are successfully carrying out the tasks of the "special period of peace time", upholding the slogan "Socialism or death, we will win".

Therefore, the party and people of Cuba are called a dignified party and the heroic people by the world's progressive people who love justice and are enjoying high respect and support from them.

The Workers' Party and people of Korea highly praise the heroic Cuban Party members and people for continuing to vigorously advance along the road of socialism, closely rallied around their party, without slightest vacilation even under the difficult conditions, and extend full support and militant solidarity for them.

The Cuban people will be ever-victorious in their struggle for the motherland, revolution and socialism as long as they have Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, a distinguished leader of the Cuban revolution, in the van and enjoy the tested guidance of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The WPK Central Committee is convinced that the fourth congress of your party will make good success as a congress of unity and a historical congress demonstrating dignity, heroism and indomitable will and that the entire Communist Party members and people of Cuba, firmly united in one and the same ideology and will, will turn out as one in the struggle to carry out the decisions of the congress, so as to overcome the difficulties on the way of advance and win a new victory.

The Workers' Party and people of Korea will in the future, too, as in the past, continue to strengthen the bonds of militant friendship, unity and solidarity with the Communist Party and people of Cuba and will struggle to the end with them for independence against imperialism and common cause of socialism.

Yon Hyong-muk, Delegation Stop Over in Tokyo

SK0910095991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Premier of the DPRK State Administration Council Comrade Yon Hyong-muk and a DPRK delegation headed by Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam made a short stopover in Tokyo yesterday on their way home after attending the 46th session of the UN General Assembly.

The premier of the State Administration Council and our country's delegation were met at the airport by responsible functionaries of the Federation of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon]. The functionaries included Han Tok-su, chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee; and Yi Chin-kyu, first vice chairman.

They also were met by Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Japanese Socialist Party [JSP] Central Executive Committee; Hajime Fukada, member of the House of Councilors, the JSP Central Executive Committee, and director of its Organizational Department; Shinjiro Yamamura, Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] member of the Diet; Hajime Ishii, president of the Japan-Korea Parliamentarian Union for the Promotion of Friendship; Hideo Den, Social Democratic Federation member of the House of Councilors; and the PRC ambassador to Japan.

The premier of the State Administration Council conversed with Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the JSP Central Executive Committee, on 7 October.

He also met and conversed with Shinjiro Yamamura, LDP member of the Diet, and Hajime Ishii, president of the Japan-Korea Parliamentarian Union for the Promotion of Friendship respectively.

The premier and the delegation were invited to a banquet hosted on 7 October by the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee.

Attending the banquet were Han Tok-su, chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee; Yi Chin-kyu, first vice chairman, and other Chongnyon functionaries such as vice chairmen Pak Chae-ro, So Man-sul, Sin Sang-tae, Ho Chong-man, Pae Pyong-tu, and Chon Yon-sik.

Chairman Han Tok-su and Premier Yon Hyong-muk spoke at the banquet.

Banquet participants toasted to the long life and good health of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

On their way home from Tokyo, the premier and the delegation stopped over briefly in China.

Economic Delegation Returns From Pakistan

SK0810153491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—The government economic delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier and chairman of the external economy commission, returned home today from Pakistan. It was met at the airport by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs, other officials concerned and Shahid M. Aslam, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Pakistan Embassy here.

Railway Electrification Project Accelerated

SK0910104991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 9 (KCNA)—Railway electrification is being stepped up in Korea.

Railway electrification project from the industrial city of Hamhung on the east coast to Puchon started Sunday.

The electrification of this section will double railway traffic capacity to satisfactorily meet the growing demand of transport in Puchon, Sinhung and Yonggwang Counties and help toward the convenient travel of people.

Some 80 kilometres of electric wires will be laid in the section, the bed of tunnels lowered and substations and structures built.

South Korea

No Tae-u Speech Addresses Relations With North

SK0910060391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0518 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea would favorably consider adopting a non-aggression pact with North Korea and hoped for an inter-Korean summit in the nearest future, President No Tae-u said Wednesday in a speech to the National Assembly.

The government was ready to talk with North Korea about replacing the Korean Armistice with a peace agreement, arms reduction, inter- Korean exchanges and all other matters pertinent to reunification, he said in the address, timed with the introduction to the Assembly of the administration's budget proposal for next year.

No's speech put major emphasis on inter-Korean relations, including a non-aggression pact North Korea has been demanding.

Pyongyang says this pact should be signed first, but Seoul says a basic agreement on free cross-border exchanges of people and goods should be signed first.

"We hope to see a conclusion of a basic agreement on improving South-North Korean relations at the fourth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks opening in Pyongyang Oct. 22. We hope for an inter-Korean summit based on this agreement in the nearest future," the president said.

The U.S. nuclear initiative would have a positive influence on reducing tension on the Korean peninsula and the arms of South and North Korea, No said in the speech read by Prime Minister Chong Won- sik.

"The government will consult closely with the United States so that the new initiative will in no way create a military vacuum on the peninsula and Northeast Asia," he said. "South Korea will work fully with peace-loving countries of the world to block North Korea from nuclear development."

The government would try its best to restore the Korean community's identity that would foster mutual development and prosperity, and would not hesitate to ask for Pyongyang's cooperation when needed, he said.

"If North Korea needs our help, we will provide it," he said.

South Korea would take careful note of changes in the Soviet Union and form cooperative ties with individual republics as well as with the central government, No said.

Conditions were ripe for South Korea and China to normalize ties because the two Koreas had joined the United Nations, so Seoul would concentrate on improving bilateral relations, he said.

The general elections next year should be clean and fair, he said.

"The general elections and all other political events will be carried out according to the Constitution, in an orderly way under social stability," No said.

On the economy, No set a lower growth rate but kept his aim on single-digit inflation. Next year's target growth rate is 8 percent with reductions in the current account deficit.

Economic policies should center on stability, industrial competitiveness, internationalization and improving the quality of people's lives, he said.

"For the Seventh Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan that begins next year, we will maintain annual 7.5 percent economic growth. By the time the plan ends in 1996, per capita gross national product will exceed 10,000 U.S. dollars," No said.

Analysts View Kim Il-song's Visit to PRC

OW0710125491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 07 Oct 91

[By Cayman Kim]

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 7 KYODO—North Korean President Kim Il- song's apparent failure to secure economic aid from China will likely force him to look to the West for help and accelerate economic reform in the face of serious food and hard currency shortages, according to South Korean political analysts.

Kim started an 11-day visit to China last Friday with a spectacular reception given by Chinese leaders described as a "call on old family relatives."

He had a series of talks with the top Chinese leaders in Beijing in a well-organized show of solidarity between the hardline socialist countries following collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Kim succeeded in slowing China's plans for normalization of diplomatic ties with rival South Korea but received no assurance of economic aid nor approval of Pyongyang's controversial nuclear development project, analysts noted.

"The comradeship portrayed this time dramatized unchanged relations between the two hardline socialist neighbors. Yet China seemed no more open-handed toward North Korea, in dire need of its assistance to compensate for the loss of Soviet aid," a high-ranking Unification Board official said.

"We see no option open for North Korea but to woo Western countries to save its faltering economy. The North will eventually come out of self-imposed isolation and speed its economic reform with foreign participation," assistant unification minister Ku Pon- tae said.

Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin reaffirmed that China would "do its utmost to consolidate and expand Sino-Korean friendship" in his talk with Kim on Friday but explained China's economic difficulties, particularly in agriculture, the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY reported.

On the following day, Premier Li Peng gave pointed advice about market-oriented economics to the North Korean leader without pledging substantial aid, the official XINHUA NEWS AGENCY said.

North Korea plans to construct "special economic zones" in cities near the Tumen River bordering China and lure foreign investors with lower taxes and other favors.

South Korea will send government officials to a six-nation regional meeting of the United Nations development program slated for October 15-18 in Pyongyang on the project.

During the remainder of his stay in China, Kim is scheduled to inspect Chinese special economic zones, South Korean officials said. He is currently touring provincial cities.

China may put pressure on the 79-year-old Kim to open his country's nuclear installations to international inspection, South Korean government officials said.

With regard to the North's alleged nuclear armament scheme, China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told a press conference in Vienna last week that China does not want nuclear weapons on either side of the divided Korean Peninsula.

Pyongyang has refused to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), citing nuclear arms presence in the south.

But Pyongyang seems to be leaning toward giving IAEA inspectors access to its nuclear facilities following U.S. President George Bush's announced plan to withdraw nuclear warheads from South Korea.

Pyongyang's rejection of international nuclear inspections has been a stumbling block in its normalization talks with Japan and has hampered its efforts to improve ties with the U.S.

Meanwhile, Kim Il-song could try to further discourage China from moving quickly to establish diplomatic links with the capitalist south, despite rapid developments in other fields, Seoul watchers said.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, after the first Sino-South Korean foreign ministers' talk in New York last week, told reporters Saturday that it would take "considerable time" before the two countries enjoy a full diplomatic relationship.

PRC's Jiang Zemin Cited on Ties With North

SK0810133091 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 8 Oct 91

[From the "Nine o' Clock News" program: Report by correspondent Yi Yun-song in Tokyo— first four paragraphs are KBS-1 anchorman Pak Song-pom introduction]

[Text] "Although they have between them ties which bind, having fought together, they are not allied relations."

This is the expression PRC General Secretary Jiang Zemin used to describe relations between China and North Korea.

In today's meeting with Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Japan's Clean Government Party [Komeito], General Secretary Jiang Zemin said that China and North Korea do not have allied relations.

We have no way of knowing what made Jiang Zemin say this and the depth of this expression, but his remark draws our attention as it was timed to coincide with Kim Il-song's visit to China.

[Begin Yi Yun-song recording] In today's meeting with Ishida, chairman of Komeito, CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin made it clear that China and North Korea are connected to each other with binding ties, having fought together as comrades-in-arms in the past, but they do not have allied relations.

General Secretary Jiang Zemin's remark is different from his emphasis on the ties between the two countries during his meeting with North Korean President Kim Il-song on 4 October, saying that by nature relations between China and North Korea will not change no matter how the international situation may change. His remark made while Kim Il-song is still in China, is seen as an important change.

In particular, General Secretary Jiang Zemin hinted that there was no substantial agreement reached in his summit talks with Kim Il-song by saying that the latter's visit to China at this time was not for resolving specific issues but only for an exchange of views on matters of mutual interest.

The Japanese press interpret Jiang Zemin's remarks as meaning that China, which is in economic difficulty, wants to put distance between itself and North Korea out of consideration for the United States and the ROK. [end recording]

Defector on North's Approach to United States

SK0910085091 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 6 Oct 91 p 5

[Fifth installment of article entitled: "Ko Yong-hwan, Former Interpreter for Kim Il-song and High-Ranking North Korean Diplomat, Speaks"—"A Formal Approach to the United States: Attaching Importance to 'Severing ROK-U.S. Ties'"]

[Text] It seems that due to North and South Korea's simultaneous entry into the United Nations, the issue of cross recognition by the four big neighboring powers—the United States, Japan, China, and the Soviet Union—is being actively examined as a mechanism to guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula. Nevertheless, we see the possibility of this happening as very remote because of the North's passive attitude.

North Korea is markedly accelerating its activities for contacts with the United States. However, the mid- and short-term strategic goal which is being pursued in North Korean diplomatic circles does not mean real change; that is to say, it does not mean the establishment of ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States.

Through a certain level of improvement in relations with the United States, North Korea is trying only to distract the United States' one-sided support of South Korea. North Korea only hopes to complete, as soon as possible, negotiations to establish diplomatic relations with Japan, which it believes are being delayed due to interference by the United States.

North Korea feels that the degree of intimacy between South Korea and the United States is like an "unborn child and its pregnant mother," and that it is being driven into a corner through their "secret schemes." It also thinks that the United States is "sticking its nose" into everything; for instance, putting the brakes on negotiations for diplomatic relations with Japan by raising the issue of nuclear inspection.

Like it or not, North Korea has realized that, if it does not try to "please" the United States, its plan for reunification, diplomatic relations with Japan, and other issues cannot be settled. Therefore, North Korea's approach to the United States is not a goal in itself but only a means to an end.

The chuche idea and anti-Americanism are the two ideological supports that have maintained the North Korean system since the founding of the regime. During the past half century, North Korean rulers have propagandized that the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea are the sources of all evil. For example, they said that the U.S. troops, who are our enemies, massacred over 1 million Korean people during the 25 June war [Korean war]; that the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea wield the power and interfered in the reunification of the fatherland before its division [as published]; and that they are the ones who have been spreading the AIDS virus in South Korea. If the U.S. forces in South Korea are withdrawn, they claim, favorable and decisive conditions for reunification can be created.

Due to this kind of brainwashing, the North Korean people regard the United States and evil as one. Even seven and eight year old children playing house unhesitatingly say that "burglars" or "bad people" are "just like the rascals of the United States." The North Korean people's anti-Americanism is beyond imagination.

Think of the over 1 million people gathered at Kim Il-song Stadium on 9 September, the founding day of the North Korean regime, crying out anti-American slogans. That bloodcurdling sight makes our hair stand on end and reminds us of the insane torchlight marches by Nazi

brown shirts in Leipzig and Munich, Germany in 1933 to a degree that even the North Korean Foreign Ministry is expressing worry that this might be like a revival of Germany's Third Reich.

So, the collapse of anti-Americanism is the equivalent of the North Korean regime having gone halfway toward its downfall.

The North Korean people's perceptions of Japan and the United States, countries that North Korea has regarded as the two pillars of hostility, are poles apart.

So, domestic anti-Americanism is intensifying even as U.S.-North Korean contacts are being maintained in Beijing, permitting limited contacts with the United States only in religious and diplomatic areas. North Korea airs reports on such contacts only via Pyongyang Radio, a propaganda radio broadcast only to the South, to which the general public cannot tune. Pyongyang Radio is, in fact, often quoted as a source of North Korean news by Japanese news organizations.

In explaining to its residents the process of negotiating with Japan to establish diplomatic relations, North Korea says that "Japan came down on their knees and apologized." However, it lets only a handful of people, a limited number of diplomats and party Central Committee functionaries, know about contacts with the United States. Even to these selected few, North Korea says: There is inside the United States a force which supports our peace-loving efforts and understands our independent stand and thanks to this force a few officials, including Vice Foreign Minister Han Si-hae, have visited the United States.

North Korea has ordered its diplomats to have two entirely different and conflicting attitudes toward the United States.

First, North Korea demands that its diplomats make a good impression on their U.S. counterparts by saying, "Our country is not at all belligerent, nor has it the strength to attack your country. Do not doubt us. There is no such thing as lasting friends or lasting foes." This is also aimed at stirring up public opinion in the United States, opinion favorable to North Korea, to create in the minds of Americans the impression that "North Korea is now behaving itself and it is about time to improve our relations with it."

Second, North Korea has ordered its diplomats to keep persuading Third World countries that have either developed nuclear weapons or are developing them, such as Argentina, Pakistan, and India, to acrimoniously criticize the U.S. position on nuclear inspection. For example, a guideline on the nuclear inspection issue that the North Korean Foreign Ministry sent to overseas missions at the beginning of last year reads: Nuclear weapons should not be monopolized by any of the major powers. It amounts to trampling underfoot the sovereignty of other countries. If any one specific country accepts the major power's monopoly of nuclear weapons, all the other countries will have to follow suit and it will in turn make the world a stage dominated by the United States.

Thus, the immediate diplomatic goal North Korea seeks is to duck direct pressure that threatens its system, including international nuclear inspection, by improving its relations with the United States and to remove the impediments that the United States has laid in its path. This being the case, it is hard to imagine the establishment of ambassador-level diplomatic relations five years from now.

Contacts between North Korea and the United States have been secretly conducted on many occasions since the beginning of the eighties in New York, Moscow, and Beijing.

However, it was not so much to establish diplomatic relations with the United States as to implement a decision made at the Sixth Workers' Party of Korea Congress held in 1980 that North Korea has conducted contacts with the United States. The upshot of the decision is to discuss with the United States, which is directly responsible for the Korean question, such issues as replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement and disbanding the UN Forces Command in order to settle the reunification question. In response to North Korea's call for direct negotiations, however, the United States has repeated its stand: You call South Korea a puppet. South Korea is, with its president, constitution, and army, a political entity to be reckoned with. So, without South Korea, it is impossible to negotiate.

In response to U.S. assertions, North Korea has put forward a proposal for tripartite talks among South Korea, North Korea and the United States. This has developed into four-party talks among South Korea, North Korea, the United States, and China. And this has become talks among six parties, South Korea, North Korea, the United States, China, Japan, and the Soviet Union.

Ministry Denies Seeking Ruling on Truce Accord

SK0910073791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 9 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry denied Wednesday that South Korea was seeking a ruling by the United Nations that it is a party to the 1953 Korean armistice agreement so that it can replace the armistice pact with a peace formula.

The armistice was signed by the United Nations, North Korea and China, but not by South Korea. The two Koreas are technically still at war.

The HANGUK ILBO reported Wednesday that the government was working to get South Korea confirmed as a party to the armistice pact so it could conclude a peace agreement with North Korea.

The newspaper said the government was considering making diplomatic efforts so the U.N. General Assembly or Security Council would adopt a resolution calling for replacement of the armistice pact with a peace formula.

The report that the government considered or planned to carry out procedures to get confirmation from third parties such as the United Nations was "unreasonable," a spokesman said.

Seoul had never considered asking the General Assembly or Security Council to adopt a resolution recommending a "peace formula" by the two Koreas, he said.

"There cannot be a dispute that we are the party for the armistice legally and actually," he said.

It was common knowledge that the problem of establishing a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula should be resolved through negotiations between the two Koreas, he said.

Diplomatic Ties With Baltic States Planned

SK0910050591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] South Korea will establish diplomatic ties soon with the three Baltic republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

For that end, the government will dispatch a four-member delegation to the countries on Oct. 13. The delegation led by ambassador at large, Han Tak-chae will visit the countries through Oct. 24.

The delegation will sign memoranda on the establishment of ambassadoral-level ties with them, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The delegation will also discuss ways for expanding relations in the economic and other sectors with senior officials from the three government.

Cabinet Approves Motion To Join ILO

SK0910075291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0743 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 9 (YONHAP)—The government at a cabinet meeting Wednesday approved a motion to accept the Charter of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in order to join the specialized United Nations agency.

According to the current regulations, a U.N. member nation could automatically join the ILO by accepting its charter that is designed to protect workers' rights and welfare as a means to attain social justice and world peace.

The government plans to inform the ILO of its decision after the National Assembly passed the resolution.

Exports to U.S. Show Continuous Decline

SK0910121291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1148 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea's exports to the United States have declined for the third year in a row, stopping at 11.837 billion U.S. dollars in January-August this year, down 6.1 percent from a year earlier, according to statistics compiled by the Trade-Industry Ministry Wednesday.

The Korean exports' share in all U.S. imports has declined as well to 3.4 percent from 4.6 percent in 1988, 4.2 percent in 1989 and 3.7 percent last year, the Ministry said.

South Korea's lessening dependence on the United States in its external trade was also reflected in the U.S. share in South Korea's global exports, which registered 26.2 percent, well below the 10-year average of 33.6 percent.

South Korea suffered 6.2 percent setbacks in its exports to the United States consecutively in 1989 and last year.

Imports from the United States, in the meantime, totaled 12.707 billion dollars, a gain of 14.9 percent over the corresponding period of last year, the ministry said.

Such traditional chief exports as garments, footwear, personal computers, containers and plastic products slid due to the loss of competitive edge vis-a-vis products of China and other major rival exporting countries and as local manufacturers moved their production plants out of the country in pursuit of cheap labor force.

The loss created by the sluggish shipments of the chief exports, however, was made up for to a certain degree by growing exports of semi-conductors, automobiles, airplane engine parts, video tape recorders and textiles, according to the ministry.

The overall setback in the U.S.-bound exports was also attributed to an economic recession in the United States.

According to a recent U.S. Commerce Department report, Japan's and Taiwan's shares in the U.S. imports have also kept declining ever since 1988, marking 18.6 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively, during the first half of this year. The comparative figures in 1988 were 20.3 percent and 5.6 percent.

On the other hand, China has improved its share in the U.S. imports from 1.9 percent in 1988 to 3.2 percent during the first half of this year while Mexico from 5.3 percent in 1988 to 6.4 percent.

Pipe Makers Want U.S. Dumping Charges Dropped

SK0910074491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0640 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korean exporters of standard steel pipe called Wednesday for dumping charges filed against them by American producers of the pipe to be dropped.

The U.S. Government had "unduly" permitted a petition to be filed because five of the 10 petitioners were foreign companies based in the United States, representatives of the five Korean producers of circular welded non-alloy standard steel pipe said.

Maruichi American Corp. of Santa Fe Springs, California, Western Tube & Conduit Corp. of Long Beach, California, and Century Tube Corp. of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, are all Japanese firms, a spokesman for the Korea Steel Pipe Association said.

Bull Moose Tube Co. of Gerald, Missouri, is British and Laclede Steel Co. of St. Louis, Missouri, is Canadian, he said.

These five companies are all members of the Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports, a non-profit trade association, and account for approximately 65 percent of U.S. production of standard pipe, according to a statement by the 10 companies that filed a petition Sept. 24 against Hyundai Pipe Co., Pusan Steel Pipe Corp., Union Steel Mfg. Co., Korea Steel Pipe Co. and Dongbu Steel Co.

The representatives of the five Korean firms said that the anti- dumping offensive was in stark contrast to reality as they had imported more than 500,000 tons of U.S. hot-rolled coil to make pipes and exported less than 350,000 tons of pipes to the United States.

Businessman Arrested for 'Bankrolling' Chondaehyop

SK0910050891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] arrested a 25-year-old man yesterday on charges of violating the National Security Law.

Yi Song-won, who quit school temporarily when he was a business senior at Hanyang University, is suspected of bankrolling Chondaehyop, the National Council of Student Representatives, with the proceeds from a fancy [gift] shop, a spokesman for NSP said yesterday.

Burma

Junta Allegedly Purging Civil Servants, Teachers

BK0910102491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT 9 Oct 91

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Bangkok, Oct 9 (AFP)—Stalinist-style purges are being carried out by Burma's ruling military junta on the civil service, according to Rangoon-based sources.

One resident, who asked not to be identified, reports that up to 15,000 civil servants have been purged, while 100-200 lecturers and staff at the capital's universities were recently sacked.

"A Stalinist purge is in process and quite clearly targeted at the civil service," said the resident, who warned that future purges could also be carried out within the military.

The clampdown is believed to have been ordered by Ne Win, who officially stepped down from power in 1988 but is considered by analysts to still secretly rule the country.

"Ne Win is Stalin," said the resident, who also warned that the country's head of military intelligence, Major General Khin Nyunt, was manoeuvering within the military hierarchy to take control when the aging Ne Win dies.

"He sees himself as the candidate to step into Ne Win's shoes. To be the new Stalin," said the resident.

"He is setting his sights on this. Also it is Khin Nyunt who makes the major speeches, setting the tone," he added.

The purges are reported to have increased the climate of fear in the country.

"The people are living in fear. They believe neighbours report on neighbours. There is all the apparatus of a police state," said the resident.

Since the bloody clampdown in 1988, the country has been run by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). Despite last year's general elections, convincingly won by the National League for Democracy (NLD), the SLORC has refused to hand over power.

NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been held under house arrest for over two years, has been strongly tipped for the Nobel Peace Prize to be awarded later this month.

"It would be a major step for democracy in Burma if she was to be awarded the peace prize," said the resident.

"It would have a tonic affect for the people who have not forgotten her. She is the one figure who provides hope," he added.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been held incommunicado since her arrest in July 1989—her only contact being with her servants. A 24-hour military guard ouside her house keeps visitors away.

Earlier this year, the SLORC extended the possible period of house arrest from three years to five years.

The detention of Aung San Suu Kyi has been condemned by most Western nations who have repeatedly called on the junta to release her.

But the SLORC have insisted that she will not be released and allowed to leave the country unless she renounces all political invlovement.

"SLORC are frightened of her at home, they are frightened of her abroad. They don't know what to do with her," said the resident.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Committee Set Up To Discuss Islands Dispute

BK0910094291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0851 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The first Malaysia-Indonesia Joint Commission meeting which ended Wednesday has set up a special working committee to further discuss the issue of the Sipadan and Ligitan islands in Sabah waters.

The Foreign Ministry's secretary-general, Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, and Indonesian Foreign Ministry Director-General (political affairs), S. Wirjono, who head the committee for Malaysia and Indonesia respectively, would meet here or in Jakarta soon.

Ahmad Kamil told a news conference at the end of the meeting that the commission's ministerial level meeting Thursday would also touch on the matter.

The Indonesian claim of the Sipadan and Ligitan islands recently was causing tension in Malaysia-Indonesia relations.

"Malaysia has never staked a claim of the two islands because all this while, Sipadan and Ligitan are considered to be within Malaysian territory," he said.

[word indistinct] said Indonesia was claiming the islands on their grounds but he declined to elaborate.

Ahmad Kamil said they also discussed the issues of smuggling and the entry of illegal immigrants and how they could tackle the twin problems.

A sub-committee was also set up during the meeting and would be meeting soon to look for a way in managing the entry of Indonesian labour.

Writer Analyzes Malaysian Foreign Policy

BK0510095591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Oct 91 p 5

[By M.G.G. Pilai under the rubric: "ASEAN Viewpoint"]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—The Malaysian foreign ministry, dominated by a strong-willed prime minister who understood not the constraints under which it worked, recovers slowly from the shadows to which it had been relegated in the past decade. Dato' Seri Mahathir Mohamed, with an understanding which matured in office, brings it back now to its traditional role. He replaced Dato' Abu Hassan Omar, the foreign minister, seven months ago with a more active, forceful Dato' Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to emphasise it.

But the foreign ministry kept its cool as the professionals skimmed and hedged through political, shortsighted misjudgements, and skewered priorities as best they could. A foreign minister content to do the prime minister's bidding, even when it seemed unwise, was its weakest link.

Malaysia, meanwhile, maintained its priorities: The Association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN), the Islamic World, the other countries in Asia, the Commonwealth, the rest of the world, in declining order of importance; even if prime ministerial fine-tuning sometimes changed the order, if only superficially. But Dato' Seri Mahathir also faced a problem not unfamiliar in many foreign ministries: Its inability or reluctance to move with the times. He felt, with some justification, that it did not always pull its weight.

In the past decade, Malaysian foreign policy challenged Western perceptions of Malaysia while reaching out to the poorer countries of the world—the so-called "South" countries. Wisma Putra, as the foreign ministry is known here, was caught flat-footed. It was consulted less and less on major decisions, and brought in, often, only when things went wrong. Wisma Putra has to take some blame for this.

Dato' Seri Mahathir's exuberant support for the poorer countries of the world, especially in the South Pacific; his opening of links with Africa and South America; his strident attacks on the West's "two-faced" approach to development; all point to his belief that foreign policy encompasses both the economic and political. He crossed swords with Australia and the United States; he demanded a fair share of global trade for the South countries. But this also suggested, wrongly, that Malaysian foreign policy, in the past decade, moved ahead by putting down other countries.

Sometimes, it showed Malaysia to be churlish. the Australian high commissioner, Mr Frank Murray, has been ostracised, officially, for almost a year, amidst difficulties between Kuala Lumpur and Canberra, at the behest of the prime minister's office. That was wrong. Diplomatic niceties should be maintained with an ambassador or high commissioner whatever the state of relations with his country. Wisma Putra's view of Mr Murray's predicament begins to prevail upon the prime minister's office, and he would be persona grata again before long.

Dato' Seri Mahathir's autocratic governance also meant that Wisma Putra seemed to be no more than a post office, distributing his missives to sundry countries without an apparent say in the matter. He spoke on regional matters and interests without consulting it or them, as reflected in the brouhaha over the East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG). Other ministers, especially the international trade and industry minister, Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz, dealt direct, often, with foreign countries, with Wisma Putra informed only when something went wrong.

Malaysia's problems with Britain is a case in point. Within months of taking office in 1981, Dato' Seri Mahathir's "Buy British Last" and "Look East" policies ensured a preference for Japan, South Korea and other countries in the Far East over long-established British, American and European nations in trade, investment and involvement in the economy. That virtually froze British companies out of the Malaysian market, confirming what had been evident for years. Wisma Putra was caught flat-footed but it quickly, quietly, smoothed over the difficulties, even if it took eight years.

The Sabah state government recently developed tourist resorts on two disputed atolls, in the undemarcated sea between Malaysia and Indonesia off Borneo Island, souring relations between Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. The two countries had agreed 30 years ago not to develop the atolls until after the border had been demarcated.

Wisma Putra learnt of the Sabah action only after Indonesia's public reaction. The recent bilateral border difficulties with Thailand, when Thai officials arrested eight Malaysian forestry officials for poaching timber and crossed into Malaysia in search of smugglers, were made difficult by Wisma Putra being only one of several departments attempting to resolve it.

Malaysia is the only country which borders every ASEAN member; predictably, it has had problems with each of them. In the past, the foreign ministry was able to prevent them from going over the boil but that is being severely tested.

When prominent political figures as Dato' Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the new foreign minister, and Dato' Seri Sanusi Junid, the agriculture minister, take advantage of foreign policy developments for personal political gains, as happened earlier this year when a few hundred Indonesians from Aceh, in North Sumatra, sought asylum in Malaysia, and over the problems with Thailand, Wisma Putra gets caught on the wrong foot.

The foreign ministry's decline became noticeable after 1984, when Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie was dropped as

foreign minister. His successor, Dato' Abu Hassan, unfortunately could not make himself heard and the prime minister's department dominated Wisma Putra. Morale dropped to an all-time low a few years later when Dato' Yusof Hitam, now Malaysian ambassador to Switzerland, was peremptorily dismissed as secretary-general because of departmental and personal differences with Dao' Abu Hassan.

His successor, Dato' Ahmad Kamil Jaffar, has quietly reversed Wisma Putra's isolation; although it is still a long way form what it should be or even what it was. The slights are still there. In the King's birthday honours list this year, Dato' Kamil was not given the customary title of Tan Sri but a junior, the ambassador to the United Nations, Dato' Razali Ismail, was. He was not, he was told, because Dato' Razali had wanted to retire early to go into business, but Dato' Seri Mahathir did not want him to; so the one award of this rank reserved every year for the foreign ministry was given to the ambassador instead.

Dato' Abdullah's appointment comes amidst the changes. He has acted as foreign minister, understands foreign policy, but he comes in from the political cold, and is not in the prime minister's inner circle. Still, he is effctive in the cabinet and elsewhere; but he travels too much, attending conferences that could have been left to someone else, and, therefore, spends little time in the foreign office. His political stature has grown by his highly visible foreign tours, but his impact on Wisma Putra remains limited, even if the atmosphere has improved.

Only a firm hand, with strong political backing, can reverse the malaise. But the foreign ministry in Malaysia is a dead-end for an ambitious politician; Dato' Abdullah is one foreign minister who has turned this handicap to his favour but his political ambition would mean that he would not stay long where he is. But his steady hand there is undeniable.

Like in many Third World foreign ministries, rapid promotions led to inexperienced men in charge; and problems rose because it was not consulted. To redress it, a diplomatic and foreign policy studies institute has been set up, with Dato' Albert Talalla, a distinguished fomer ambassador to China, Canada, West Germany (as it then was) and the United States, as its first director. It would train diplomats and new recruits with the theoretical framework of diplomacy that they often do not get. It is long overdue.

Amidst these interruptions and problems, though, Malaysian foreign policy sticks to its basic priorities, even if it has not been as active as it had been in the 1960s and 1970s. Malaysian prime ministers always made foreign policy: Tengku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussein Onn—Dato' Seri Mahathir's predecessors—also were their own foreign ministers, but they let the professionals carry them out. Dato' Seri Mahathir did not for a while, but now comes to that conclusion.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Officials Refuse Phnom Penh Visit

BK0910150191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1438 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Bangkok, Oct 9 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge representatives on Cambodia's interim ruling body are refusing to return to Phnom Penh next month because of fears for their safety, sources familiar with developments in Cambodia said here Wednesday.

The Khmer Rouge officials, Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, consider security arrangements made for them in Phnom Penh inadequate and want them to be stepped up.

Khieu Samphan and Son Sen would only be allowed one bodyguard each by the Phnom Penh authorities when they return to the Cambodian capital, the sources said.

Many people in Phnom Penh have bitter memories of the murderous years of Khmer Rouge rule between 1975 and 1979 when hundreds of thousands of people died in the country's "killing fields." Khieu Samphan and Son Sen were both top leaders during that period.

If they persist in refusing to return to Phnom Penh in November, the Supreme National Council (SNC), formed from representatives of Cambodia's four warring factions, will apparently not be able to be meet there as planned.

An arrangement earlier this year for the SNC to establish its headquarters in Phnom Penh was one of the key agreements paving the way to a settlement of Cambodia's 13-year civil war due to be signed later this month.

The war broke out after the radical Marxist Khmer Rouge, backed by China, was driven from power by invading Vietnamese forces. In January 1979, Hanoi's troops installed another, but less extreme, communist government in Phnom Penh.

Pol Pot, Cambodia's leader between 1975 and 1979, is believed still to be in overall command of the Khmer Rouge. The group is by far the strongest guerrilla force in the tripartite coalition opposed to Phnom Penh's Vietnamese-backed regime.

The Khmer Rouge also wants Phnom Penh to drop its insistence that Khmer Rouge SNC members only be granted short-term permits which would have to be renewed every third day to stay in the Cambodian capital, the sources said.

The SNC has twelve members, half of them representing Phnom Penh. Its chairman, Prince Norodom Sihanouk,

Cambodia's exiled former king, is scheduled to return to Phnom Penh November 14.

Problems Complicate Repatriation of Refugees

BK0910075591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0119 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] According to relief workers, administrators of Site-8, the least regimented of the camps belonging to the Khmer Rouge, have recently toured three sites between the Thai border and Battambang, Cambodia's second-largest city, 300 kilometers (180 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh.

Seth, around 30 and unmarried, said his family was from Battambang. But when UN pre-registration investigators get to talk to him, he might well ask to return to a jungle village selected for him by the Khmer Rouge leadership.

Unless, of course, he tries to make it on his own.

Relief workers are worried that as soon as Cambodia's peace accord is concluded, refugees will rush back to Cambodia outside the UN programme, despite dangers of banditry, malaria and millions of landmines strewn in the jungles and rice-paddy fields of Cambodia.

The conclusion of a peace accord and the planned return to Phnom Penh next month of former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, now the head of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of representatives of the warring factions, might open the flood gates, with refugees ignoring danger warnings in a bid to get first crack at land offers.

In an attempt to prevent this, both the prince and Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen have appealed to camp inmates to wait for the UN repatriation.

But it has not turned out to be a major problem so far. According to relief workers, only small numbers from Site-2, northeast of here, and Site-8 have so far gone back to Cambodia to take advantage of trade opportunities that have emerged since the guns fell almost silent when a ceasefire began in May.

In the case of the sprawling Site-2 camp of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), the refugee population has in fact swollen to over 200,000, an increase of some 20,000 over the past few weeks.

According to aid workers this has been prompted by disastrous food conditions inside Cambodia, where the countryside has been ravaged by floods caused by heavy monsoon downpours.

Financing is also a problem.

Costs for preparations have been tagged at 33 million dollars, with over 100 million dollars needed to complete the repatriation programme.

But the United Nations has only been given 9.5 million dollars so far by its member countries, UN officials said.

No dates have been set yet for the repatriation.

But relief workers expect pre-registration to last until the end of the year, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to be ready to start repatriation bus convoys some time around February.

This would be about the middle of the dry season, leaving hardly three months to take back as many people as possible before roads in Cambodia are washed away by the torrential rains of the wet season.

Khmer Rouge To Forcibly Repatriate 'Thousands'

BK0910061691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0600 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Oct 9 (AFP)—The Marxist Khmer Rouge Cambodian guerrilla faction is preparing to force thousands of refugees under its control back into Cambodia from a camp just inside the Thai border, relief officals said on Wednesday.

It is feared that the Khmer Rouge will try to keep them in their zones of influence inside Cambodia to serve as a political base in the run up to elections which form part of the peace plan to end almost 13 years of war in the country.

The preparations, in defiance of the United Nations repatriation plan, came after Khmer Rouge officials detained their own civilian administrators at the camp and replaced them with a hardline group of military leaders.

"The new leaders are actively pursuing repatriation. They've given the refugees an October 31 deadline to register with them. After they register they will begin repatriation, we guess in early November," said a relief official working on the border who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The camps former civilian leaders were called across the border into Cambodia on September 30, ostensibly for a meeting. They were detained there and a new five-member group of military commanders was appointed to administer the Site 8 camp, home to some 43,000 refugees.

"People in the camp are very depressed and very afraid. They're looking for a way out of this situation," the relief official said.

A massive United Nations repatriation programme is just getting under way for the 340,000 Cambodians living in a string of guerrilla-administered, U.N.-assisted camps just inside Thailand.

There have been fears that the three guerrilla factions, in particular the Khmer Rouge, the dominant guerrilla group, would try to keep control of the refugees they currently administer by moving them into their zones of influence inside Cambodia.

"The old Site 8 leaders had good contact with the U.N. and the outside world. They were cooperating well on the repatriation issue. We can only speculate that the Khmer Rouge didn't want repatriation the U.N. way but their own way, so they've replaced the old camp administrators and are going ahead with their own repatriation plan," the relief official said.

As well as the 43,000 people at Site 8 the Khmer Rouge currently administer about 18,000 people at O'Trao camp and another 10,500 at Site K camp.

The Khmer Rouge also control about 60,000 other people in settlements in their zone just across the border inside Cambodia, many of them soldiers' families.

The preparations to repatriate the inhabitants of Site 8 have revived memories of the April 1975 takeover of the Cambodian capital by the victorious Khmer Rouge guerrillas who forced everyone out of the city at gunpoint, practically overnight. [passage omitted]

United Nations officials in charge of the relief operation on the border say they have refused to recognise the new administration in Site 8 and they have stopped supplying the administration with rations.

"The situation is very tense. Over the last few months the Khmer Rouge have been encouraging people to move back into Cambodia and a few thousand have done so. So far we haven't seen any threat or coercion, but this Site 8 situation looks very different," a relief official said.

Son Sann Issues Message on KPNLF Anniversary

BK0910104191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Message from Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], on the Front's 12th founding anniversary; read by "Pol Ham, deputy delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of propaganda affairs"; dated 9 Oct]

[Text] Greetings to the beloved clergy and compatriots: Today, 9 October 1991, is the KPNLF's 12th founding anniversary. Thus, to this day, the KPNLF is exactly 12 years old. This year's celebration of the KPNLF anniversary coincides with a time when the Cambodian people are happily following the news on the success of the latest meeting in New York of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] to solve and end the Cambodian problem which has lasted for many years.

The success in solving the Cambodian problem is due to a large contribution by the KPNLF, which has been constantly concerned about the suffering the Cambodian people throughout the country have been going through during the past 21 years. The success in solving the Cambodian problem coincides with a series of results—the fine achievements of the KPNLF, with the active assistance and support of the clergy and the Cambodian people in general, in and outside the country, and also of our courageous combatants.

Over the past year, from 9 October 1990 to 9 October 1991, the general progress can be described as follows. In civilian affairs, the KPNLF has constantly made efforts to search for foreign aid and organize support for the Cambodian people's everyday life in the zones under the KPNLF control, inside the country, and in camps of Cambodian refugees loyal to the KPNLF. As for the Cambodian people under the control of other parties, particularly those under the control of the party propped up in power in Phnom Penh, who suffered through the recent floods, the KPNLF has also made efforts to assist them through the SNC by finding aid for our victimized compatriots. We will continue such efforts to serve the Cambodian people in accordance with our principles, which are to save, serve, and defend the Cambodian people.

In military affairs, our courageous combatants have achieved remarkable results, by liberating people from the enemies and occupying many important areas inside the country. At present the political situation requires the dissolution and disarming of troops of all parties. However, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that we will absolutely not abandon our combatants, particularly those who abide by the KPNLF discipline and love Cambodia and the Cambodian people. The KPNLF is ready to assist our combatants through efforts appropriate to a common plan in order to train our demobilized combatants to enable them to have jobs and feed their families when peace returns in the future.

In the political field, we have provided great assistance toward achieving a solution to end the Cambodian problem this year, particularly at the two meetings in Phatthaya, the meeting in Beijing, and lately the meeting in New York. We have compromised to the maximum, except on the points which affect the interests of Cambodia and the Cambodian people, regarding which we insisted on our position until success was achieved.

Examples that illustrate some remarkable points include one on a point relating to the agreement, which says that the election in Cambodia should be free and proper; in other words, the Cambodian people should have full freedom in the election without pressure from military forces. In this respect, the KPNLF have vigorously tried to assist Cambodian people living everywhere to have full rights worthy of independent and free Cambodian citizens. This is not only for the Cambodian people inside the country; the KPNLF has also tried to provide these sacred rights to compatriots abroad in order to enable them to vote like those inside the country. The KPNLF holds that this is a duty on our part that has to be carried out for all Cambodians.

Concerning the election, the KPNLF insisted on a proportional representation electoral system—which we think is the most appropriate system under the present

circumstances—until success was achieved. Furthermore, at a time when the light of peace is increasingly emerging, we have never forgotten KPNLF members, both military and civilian, who have sacrificed physical and moral efforts and dared to courageously carry out activities to serve the KPNLF and the Cambodian people to the point of being arrested and imprisoned by the Vietnamese and the regime propped up in power by the Vietnamese. We have persistently called on the Hun Sen side to release those prisoners, whose only mistake has been to oppose foreign aggression in order to liberate the Cambodian country and nation.

Beloved clergy and compatriots: The KPNLF is a major party among Cambodian parties in the struggle to liberate the Cambodian country and nation from foreign aggressors, to oppose Cambodian genocide, to fight all kinds of corruption, and, lately, to take part in talks in the international arena to find peace with independence for Cambodia and the Cambodian people.

Up to the present time, the KPNLF has achieved successful results for the motherland and the Cambodian people. We have made the Vietnamese declare and admit that they can no longer continue to occupy Cambodia. We have made communist parties admit that Cambodia should be a country with a liberal political regime with many parties. The next stage is the free and just election. This is the goal the KPNLF and the Cambodian people most want.

Finally, we will continue to be ready to serve Cambodia and the Cambodian people in building and developing Cambodia and helping the Cambodian people to have high living standards when we receive support form the people in the forthcoming election. This is the KPNLF mission, which must be successfully carried out.

Also on this occasion, as KPNLF president, I appeal to all KPNLF members to carry out their work with the KPNLF more intensely in order to further serve the Cambodian people better. I also appeal to Cambodians everywhere to join the KPNLF in greater numbers in order to pool efforts for the final struggle for our Cambodian motherland.

Finally, on the KPNLF's 12th anniversary, I wish the clergy and all compatriots well so that they will be able to carry out their sacred duties in rebuilding Cambodia in the near future. The KPNLF is very proud both to have received vigorous support from the Cambodian people and also to possess members who diligently serve the Cambodian country and nation.

In the coming 13th year, the KPNLF will continue to serve Cambodia and the Cambodian people in the process aimed at achieving final victory for the people with a liberal democratic and Buddhist regime—the ultimate aspiration of the Cambodian people, whom I always consider as my master.

Long live the KPNLF!
Long live 9 October 1991!

Indonesia

Suharto Urges OPEC To Lower Output Ceiling

BK0810153991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 8 (AFP)—The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) must revert to restraining output now that Iraq and Kuwait, whose output was disrupted by the Gulf war, were returning to the market, Indonesian President Suharto said Tuesday.

The oil supply disruption in Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf war had led to other OPEC members producing at virtually full capacity, Suharto said in remarks opening the Second Jakarta International Energy Conference.

"Gradually, as Iraq and Kuwait regain their production and export capabilities, OPEC will again have to assert control over the production of its member countries," he said.

"The aim is not to create a shortage of oil but on the contrary to stabilize and to ensure an orderly oil supply to the world," he added.

The oil cartel at a meeting last month in Geneva set an output ceiling of 23.65 million barrels per day (BPD), virtually its current production level and just below its capacity of 24 million BPD, although many members had sought a lower level to push prices closer to OPEC's target of 21 dollars a barrel. OPEC sources said Saudi Arabia, by far the largest producer among the 13 members, resisted pressures to cut its current output of 8.5 million BPD.

Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita in his keynote speech said output restraints might be necessary in the first half of next year and warned that reaching an agreement could be difficult but not unfeasible, in an apparent reference to diverging interests of member countries.

"I believe OPEC will be able to stand up to the challenge as it has always been able to do so in the past," Ginanjar said, adding: "It is in nobody's interest to see the collapse of the world oil market."

Omani Oil and Mineral Minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari said in his speech that 13 oil producers outside OPEC, grouped informally in the Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries (IPEC), were ready to cooperate with OPEC to stabilise the oil market as they did in 1988 and 1989.

"We can assure you that we shall continue to work for oil market stability and join OPEC in other matters of interest to all oil exporting countries," Shanfari said.

IPEC, formed four years ago, groups such producers as Oman, Egypt, Norway, the Soviet Union and Mexico among others.

Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Yusef Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusef of the United Arab Emirates, an OPEC member, addressed the conference but made no direct reference to OPEC's output policies.

Suharto also urged oil producers, both within and outside OPEC, as well as oil consumers, to work together through consultations to ensure a stable world oil market, which he said was in the interest of all parties.

"Now is the time for all of us, energy suppliers as well as consumers, to carry out more dialogue and consultations to remove the barriers which can only be a disadvantage to ourselves," he said.

"Although we realize that in a free market there is always a factor of speculation, if there is too much speculation and it deviates too far from the market fundamentals—such as supply, demand and stock—it can only be detrimental for everyone," he added.

He said Indonesia and the five other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had already struck an agreement by which the oil producing members would supply oil to the three net importing members in times of shortages.

Indonesia was also striving to develop cooperation in the energy sector with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

"But our ultimate goal should be global cooperation," he said. "Cooperation and not confrontation, should be our guiding principle in meeting the energy challenges, especially those related to oil, in facing the 21st century."

Moslem Party To Endorse Suharto 1993 Candidacy

BK0910075191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0323 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 8 (AFP)—Indonesia's quasi-Moslem United Development Party (PPP) will endorse President Suharto as candidate for the next presidential term to start in 1993, PPP Secretary General Matori Abdul Jalil has said.

PPP is one of the country's three government-recognized political parties. The other two are the ruling government party Golkar and the small Christian-nationalist Democratic Party of Indonesia (PDI).

Mr. Suharto, 70, popularly known as Pak (father) Harto, has so far run unopposed for five consecutive five-year terms. He indicated in a biography published in 1989 that his 1988 re- election might be his last, sparking intense speculation about who might replace him and how they could be chosen.

"After a careful study and considering the aspirations which came from ulemas or sociopolitical organizations, there seems to be no other alternative but Pak Harto (a popular form of address for Suharto) for the presidency," the MEDIA INDONESIA daily Tuesday quoted Abdul Jalil as saying.

When asked whether it was his personal choice or the PPP's, Abdul Jalil told the daily that his party would only channel the people's aspirations, "while it is clear that the people's aspirations call for Suharto only."

A group of veterans and another of leading Moslem ulemas and heads of powerful Moslem organizations claiming to act for the Indonesian Moslem community have already called for the endorsement of Suharto for another term.

Statements backing up Mr. Suharto's rule for another five years came from many sociopolitical and professional organizations in the run up to the last presidential election in 1988.

According to the Constitution, any faction can propose its presidential candidate.

Under current laws, the president is appointed by the country's highest legislative body, the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), during its single sitting every five years, one year after general elections for the People's Representatives' Council (DPR). The MPR is due to convene in 1993.

The DPR's 400 MPs and 100 members of the armed forces appointed by the president, join 500 senior officials and leading figures also appointed by Mr. Suharto to form the MPR.

Laos

Front Chairman Greets PRC on National Day

BK0910033291 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Maisouk Saisompheng, chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee, recently sent a greetings message to Li Xiannian, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC], on the 42d anniversary of the establishment of the PRC, 1 October 1949-1 October 1991. The message reads as follows:

In the past 42 years, the Chinese people under the CPC's leadership, have won great victories and achievements in building and defending the country. They have achieved progress in restructuring, bringing about the increasing improvement of the socioeconomic foundation of China.

The LFNC and the multiethnic Lao people would like to extend greetings to the CPPCC and the Chinese people on this occasion, and to wish for the continuous development and eternal solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the LFNC and the CPPCC as well as between the Lao and the Chinese peoples.

Phoun Sipaseut Returns From UN Assembly Session

BK0910042091 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, returned to Vientiane after attending the 46th UN General Assembly session in New York, the United States, on 17 September 1991.

Upon arrival at the Wattai Airport he was welcomed by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance, along with many high-ranking cadres from the Foreign Affairs Ministry and other services concerned.

Nouhak Phoumsavan Addresses Cadres in Champassak

BK0910041691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Late last month, Nouhak Phoumsavan, [chairman of the National Assembly], addressed nearly 300 leading cadres in Champassak Province. The cadres included members of the provincial party and administrative committees, heads of various services or units attached to the provincial administration, and members of the party and administrative committees of 10 districts in the province.

In his address, Nouhak Phoumsavan noted the urgent task of restoring production to compensate for flood losses. He instructed the administrations at all levels to attentively to find ways to resolve the difficulties, guide the people in the flood-devastated areas to urgently prepare for production, and create favorable conditions for them to effectively carry out this task during the dry season.

Security Work in Khammouane Province Viewed

BK0810055791 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Unattributed article: "If Self-Defense Forces Are Strong, Localities Will Enjoy Peace"]

[Summary] "Respected listeners: The self-defense forces are the steel fortress of all localities. If they are strong, peace will prevail in the localities concerned because bad elements will be unable to penetrate for subversion. These forces will remain strong if their organization is firm, their political awareness high, and their tactical capabilities skillful and proficient. All this is the principled law of the self-defense forces."

Khammouane Province is composed of six districts, 75 cantons, and 863 villages with the total population of 215,801 comprising 38,336 families. Most of them are farmers who have always engaged in national defense and the maintenance of public security. Generally speaking, many districts and cantons have performed this job efficiently. Many border crossing points are also in this province, such as the Thakhek-Nakhon Phanom, the Pak Se Bang Fai-That Phanom, and the Pak Nam Hinboun-Tha Uthen customs and check points. There are also many tourist attractions here such as the That Sikhottaboun Pagoda, the ancient town of Meuang Kao, the Khouha Savan cave, and others. Therefore, it is extremely important that special attention be paid to public security maintenance for the security of visitors and tourists as well as to maintain peace and order and safeguard lives and property.

"In defending the localities and the country, the province's guiding committee for national defense work has paid special attention to the grass roots. This is to mobilize the people who will appreciate the party's and state's line in carrying out national defense and public security maintenance work among the entire masses, and this is aimed at encouraging them to develop a sense of being the masters of their own country and society. All residents of the province must take the initiative to monitor the situation in their respective localities and act as our authorities' eyes and ears. They must energetically compete in executing their responsibilities. Each unit made up of residents must be assigned responsibilities of maintaining peace and order in their locality. A 24-hour standby watch must be maintained in each unit for emergencies. Guards must be posted at such important points as bridges, electricity utility posts, and other public facilities.

"In consolidating the armed forces, the military command of Khammouane Province has organized political study and tactical training sessions for the infantry, militia, and self-defense forces. This is to raise their level of knowledge and capabilities and to enable commanding officers and combatants to clearly understand their rights and duties and to become more capable, resourceful, and skillful in gradually improving peace and security."

Philippines

De Villa Warns of NPA Plan To Kill Americans

HK0910013491 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said communist rebels have intensified their campaign to kill "overstaying" Americans after the Senate rejected the Republic of the Philippines-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security. During a hearing deliberating the defense budget, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa revealed the intention of the New People's Army [NPA] rebels to ambush all American installations in the country to attain their political objective and to show the government that they are still active in their struggle. Nonetheless, De Villa allayed fears of the Americans by assuring them that they are in control of the situation and all forces of the military are prepared to protect the safety of the "overstaying" Americans in the country.

More Attacks Possible

HK0910035491 Quezon City MALAYA in English 9 Oct 91 p 2

[By Richelda Doloricon]

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said yesterday other pro-bases government officials might be the next targets of attacks by New People's Army (NPA) rebels after raiding Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr's cattle ranch in Kalinga-Apayao.

Mitra has said NPA rebels burned his ranch two weeks ago due to his pro-bases stand.

De Villa said that the military was investigating the burning incident and its possible connection to the bases issue.

He also cited intelligence reports indicating that the NPA would increase its terrorist activities following the government's rejection of its proposed ceasefire.

He said other targets might include U.S. officials and military installations here since communist rebels have long been fighting for the dismantling of U.S. bases.

"This is a recurring scenario. The basis for this really is their long-running campaign to get the U.S. facilities and the U.S. military personnel out of the country," the defense secretary said.

He declined to give names of possible targets, "to avoid causing unnecessary discomfort and anxiety" to them.

The DND [Department of National Defense] chief, however, said according to intelligence reports, the NPA will not anymore concentrate their attacks on U.S. service men.

"We have heard they will step up their Sparrow operation again, but I believe this is not primarily targetted at servicemen. We have reason to believe that they could target others as well," he said.

"We think that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA is trying to project physically and psychologically that they are still strong. They'll do anything to project that they are still a force to contend with," he added.

Pullout Talks To Start After Delivery of Note

HK0910045091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Italicized passages in English]

[Text] The talks on the withdrawal of U.S. forces will begin after the diplomatic note for the United States, which will contain the conditions for withdrawal from Subic Naval Base, is served next week. This was announced by Press Under Secretary Horacio Paredes.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, on the other hand, said that the withdrawal talk is the lone right of the executive in which the Senate cannot intervene. Manglapus said the Philippine withdrawal negotiating panel will insist on the inclusion of the rejected Republic of the Philippines-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security into the executive agreement for the withdrawal of the United States.

Senator Leticia Shahani, meanwhile, believes that the consensus of Malacanang and the Senate regarding the U.S. withdrawal is still needed. Senator Shahani is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

[Begin Shahani recording] There is a consensus in the Senate, *or at least a majority of 16.* Our president, *whether she is of this Liberal Party or Struggle of the Filipino Democrats,* let us forget about that. *You see? And that, I think, is what I would like to say.* Because if we do all this for politics, we cannot achieve anything. That is really true. But the country will suffer. So what is happening in the Senate is also good. *And I hope that there will be greater ground for consensus, not only in the Senate, but also between Malacanang and the Senate.* [end recording]

Officials View Three-Year Bases Withdrawal Plan

Enrile: Formal Treaty Needed

HK0710033891 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile stressed that the compromise formula for a three-year withdrawal period for the U.S. forces in the country should be placed under a new treaty which has to be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the senators. Enrile said that if the government does not do this, it may again be violating the Constitution. Enrile explained that the compromise formula exceeded the one-year phaseout period stipulated in the Ramos-Rusk agreement, which is said to be the basis for the stay of the U.S. bases in the country, after the 1947 Military Bases Agreement expired on 16 September this year. At the same time, Enrile challenged Malacanang and the pro-bases senators to renegotiate with Washington for a treaty favorable to the Filipinos. The legislator reiterated that in making the treaty, the emphasis should be the removal of foreigners and not the finding of ways to retain the U.S. forces in the country.

Senate Awaits 'Definite' Plan

HK0910052391 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 9 Oct 91 pp 1, 6

[By Anthony L. Cuaycong and Cris V. Paraso]

[Text] The Senate awaits Malacanang's definite plan on the three-year withdrawal period for United States troops and facilities, especially on the timetable for the removal of combat troops and equipment.

Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, foreign relations committee chairperson, said there is still no formal note

forwarded by the Palace to the U.S. Government regarding the three-year pullout process.

She said the Philippine Government "should be clear as to what it really wants," adding that this is important if the withdrawal panels from the two countries are to start meeting.

Senator Rene A. V. Saguisag said there are enough discussions for Malacanang to consider what is the emerging consensus to be transmitted by the Philippine negotiating panel to its U.S. counterpart on the withdrawal terms.

He said the compromise resolution on the three-year withdrawal period may still undergo several amendments in the Senate to include a fixed timetable for the withdrawal of troops and facilities.

Sen. Saguisag added that as per agreement with President Aquino, an amendment will also be introduced which will include senators in the oversight committee on the withdrawal period.

There is growing support that combat troops and equipment should be removed at most within one year starting on Sept. 17, 1991 as provided under the 1966 Ramos-Rusk agreement.

Irreversible

Both anti- and pro-treaty camps, however, are agreed that the agreement to be entered into by Malacanang should be an irreversible process to be completed within but not exceeding three years.

Earlier, Senate President Jovito R. Salonga said nine of the anti-treaty bloc who have not yet signed the resolution will stand pat on pushing for a one-year pullout.

In a clarificatory statement, Senator Agapito A. Aquino, an anti- treaty supporter who signed the three-year withdrawal resolution, said, "I strongly urge the complete withdrawal of all U.S. combat troops from our territory within one year from Sept. 16, 1991.

"The remaining administrative and technical personnel may stay behind for such a period of time as may be necessary for an orderly pullout, but not exceeding the arranged three-year period."

He said the three-year process should not be interpreted as an extension since it is a practical time frame for U.S. forces to be phased out and Filipino operations to be phased in. He added that experts have told him one year "is not sufficient time for us to take over Subic Naval Base for commercially viable purposes."

Sen. Saguisag said there is need to assure the alleviation of the plight of victims affected by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions who will further be affected by the immediate removal of U.S. troops.

He said some American soldiers are protecting the remaining watersheds along Subic which, according to Olongapo City Mayor Richard Gordon, will surely be immediately denuded due to illegal logging once the security perimeter is lifted.

No Useful Purpose

Meanwhile, President Aquino yesterday brushed aside the proposal of nine anti-bases senators, including Senate President Jovito Salonga, to allow a three-year pullout period for the United States only on condition that all U.S. military components and personnel in Subic Naval Base are withdrawn on the first year.

Noting that the schedule of withdrawal will be "among the matters (to) be taken up in forthcoming talks with the U.S.," Mrs. Aquino argued that "it would not serve any useful purpose to take hardline positions even before the talks begin."

Mrs. Aquino stressed, however, that "we are listening to all reasonable ideas and will bring these up during the talks."

In this connection, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus disclosed that the Philippines will likely adopt during the withdrawal period the "status of forces" agreement [SOFA] forged with the United States as a supplement to the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security.

"I'm afraid it's not possible" to scrap all provisions in the Treaty, including the supplementary agreements "unless we want to go through a long process of deciding the terms," Mr. Manglapus explained.

"The SOFA is something acceptable to their side, and we need it. There is no way we can allow the U.S. personnel to stay on Philippine soil without a SOFA, and they will not allow their men to stay here without a SOFA."

Senators Defend Plan

HK0910085891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 9 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[By Ros Manlangit, Arthur I. Bariuad, Jose H. Macaspac III, and Dionisio Tubianosa]

[Text] A resolution prescribing a three-year pullout for United States military facilities here would be rammed through the Senate, possibly with help of six anti-bases treaty senators, Senator Aquilino Pimentel said yesterday, but he added that such a resolution would be "non-binding" for both the Philippine and U.S. governments.

If six anti-treaty senators voted for the resolution plus the 11 originally pro-bases senators, that would bring the number of its supporters to 17, one more than is necessary for the concurrence in a treaty by two-thirds of the Senate.

Three of the anti-treaty senators have already signed the resolution: Senators Rene Saguisag, Agapito Aquino, and Orlando Mercado. The three others "expected" to follow are: Senators Ernesto Maceda, Joseph Estrada, and Victor Ziga.

Senator sources say that Majority Leader Teofisto Guingona may also sign the resolution which would bring the total of anti-treaty senators signing to seven and the total vote for the measure 18 (seven plus 11).

Meanwhile, Senate foreign realtions committee chairman Leticia Ramos Shahani, in a public forum, and Senator Aquino, in a statement, both defended the three-year pullout formula originally conceived by Saguisag and first rejected but later adopted and sponsored by Malacanang. Pimentel said Malacanang's intention in the wake of sharp disagreement with the formidable anti-bases treaty bloc in the Senate was to secure nominal support that would strengthen its decision to conclude an executive agreement with the U.S. on the bases withdrawal.

Analyzing Palace moves of late on the controversial bases question, Pimentel surmised that Malacanang would make unilateral moves to conclude an executive accord with the U.S. but would need the token Senate support as well to settle further dissent to the withdrawal arrangements.

But Pimentel said any move by Malacanang to formalize a three- year phaseout agreement would invite a spate of legal suits on the constitutionality of a pullout period beyond one year.

Impeachment moves could also be revived although Pimentel doubted it could prosper in the House of Representatives which is dominated by the pro-administration Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] (LDP).

Shahani, underscoring the "social crisis" plaguing the country as a result of the series of natural calamities, defended the three- year pullout plan advanced by at least 14 senators as an "economic and diplomatic necessity" which will effectively address the government's privatization program for all the reverted base lands.

Shahani, who appeared at the weekly Bulong Pulungan ["whisper meeting"] forum at the Philippine Plaza hotel, at the same time stressed that the three-year compromise plan was an "irreversible pullout" and dismissed fears that the proposal was being used as a veiled tactic to extend the stay of U.S. military forces in the country.

"The Senate looks at this (three-year pullout plan) as an agreement of withdrawal. This is not an extension," Shahani stressed.

Shahani reasoned that the proposed executive accord covering the pullout of U.S. military forces from the country is not in violation of the Philippine Constitution. "The term of the 1947 Military Bases Agreement is for a continued stay of U.S. forces, but this (three-year withdrawal agreement) is a withdrawal, not a stationing of U.S. military forces."

"If Subic is going to be withdrawn, it will mean that they are not fully operational...they are on the way out," Shahani said, adding that the requirement for three yeras for an orderly pullout and an orderly transition was an adequate time frame, "because you are not only withdrawing people but also facilities."

On Monday, Senator Rene Saguisag, proponent of the three-year withdrawal plan, admitted that American military forces could stay beyond the term of the pullout period as there were no guarantees that the proposed executive accord would be irreversible.

Saguisag, one of the 12 senators who voted against the ratification of what was widely perceived as a "lopsided treaty," explained that even if Manila and Washington sign an agreement on withdrawal, there is no way to stop the next Philippine administration, to be elected in 1992, from entering into a new treaty which will give the U.S. new basing arrangements with the Philippines.

Aside from providing the U.S. with enough time to withdraw, Shahani also said that the three-year period allows Filipinos to acquire needed skills in running a ship-repair facility which was one of the conversion plans for Subic Naval Base.

Shahani, who chairs the Senate foreign relations committee, said the compromise withdrawal formula was both an "economic and diplomatic necessity." Pointing to the diplomatic factor of the bases conversion, she said that the Philippines cannot afford to snub the U.S.

"We are a poor developing country and it is very dangerous if we're going to play around with a foreign power like the U.S." Shahani said.

She said the three-year compromise plan was in a way a form of "damage control" for the rejection by the Senate last September 16 of the 10-year extension treaty.

In a statement, Aquino, one of three anti-treaty senators criticized for capitulating on their anti-bases stand by proposing a three-year withdrawal schedule, said complete withdrawal of the U.S. combat soldiers and weapons from the Philippines should be accomplished a year after the expiration of the treaty.

The remaining administrative and technical personnel may stay behind for such a period of time as may be necessary for an orderly pullout, but this should not exceed the arranged three-year deadline, he said.

Defending the three-year period which Malcanang also strongly supports, Aquino said "this should in no way be construed as a sleight-of-hand extension of the expired military bases agreement."

Instead, he said the proposal provides a "down-to-earth and practical time frame within which the U.S. forces would be 'phased out' and the Filipino personnel would be 'phased-in' at the facility."

Aquino believes the one-year withdrawal period provided by the Ramos-Rusk Amendment to the bases accord was not sufficient time for the Philippines to effectively take over Subic and convert it into a viable commercial port.

Meanwhile, the Aquino government refused to toe the hard-line posture of anti-treaty senators who demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. military component in the Subic Naval Base on or before September 17, 1992 as condition for their support of the three-year Palace-initiated withdrawal formula.

"Among the matters that will be taken up in the forthcoming talks with the U.S. is the schedule of withdrawal. It would not serve any useful purpose to take hard-line positions even before the talks begin," President Aquino told Palace reporters in a statement issued by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez.

Salonga May Soften Stance

HK0910105291 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has said that President Corazon Aquino will surely negotiate with the United States for a three-year withdrawal period. Manglapus also opposed the one-year withdrawal period proposed by Senate President Jovito Salonga.

House Majority Floor Leader Raul Roco said that the country cannot achieve a valid executive agreement if a two-thirds vote from the Senate is not obtained.

In a related development, Senate President Jovito Salonga and Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile have already dropped their hardline position against a three-year withdrawal from Subic Naval Base. But the two senators gave some conditions that may be unacceptable for Malacanang. Jojo Ismael has the details:

[Begin Ismael recording] According to Salonga and Enrile, they have both agreed to a longer withdrawal period if combat troops and security forces, including U.S. armaments, are taken out of the Philippines within one year starting from 16 September. According to Salonga, it is better that the military components are removed before the end of 1991. Because of this new development on the part of Salonga and Enrile, it is expected that other antitreaty hardliners will follow suit if some of the conditions mentioned are granted.

Meanwhile, Salonga and other antitreaty senators are scheduled to meet with President Aquino tomorrow at the Malacanang to discuss these matters. [end recording]

Senate Needs To Approve

HK0910052491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 9 Oct 91 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Can Aquino Alone Sign New Accord?"]

[Text] United States Defense Secretary Richard Cheney says his government needs less than one year to close down its facilities and withdraw its forces in Subic. President Aquino, backed by at least 14 senators, insists the U.S. needs at least three years. And she says she will enter into an executive agreement with the U.S. without any longer seeking the concurrence of the Senate.

Mrs. Aquino, if she insists, may not meet much objection from the U.S. It had earlier wanted another ten years. But she will still have to contend with the Constitution which stands to be violated by an executive agreement that bypasses the Senate.

Article XVIII, Section 25 of the Constitution contemplates that U.S. militry withdrawal should be completed, not simply begun, upon the expiration of the 1947 military bases agreement, if it is not replaced by a new treaty. The agreement, according to the Constitution, expires in 1991. This is specifically interpreted to mean September 16, 1991.

Given this provision, a three-year withdrawal period would constitute an extension of the stay of the U.S. forces beyond the constitutional deadline. This must be covered by a treaty, duly concurred in by the Senate, not just an executive agreement.

Malacanang, supported by its legal advisers, will say a withdrawal period is not necessarily an extension. For this purpose, the Department of Justice quotes a provision of the Manglapus-Shultz agreement of October 17, 1988, which provides:

"VII. Ownership and Disposition of Buildings, Structures and Other Property

"3. Upon final termination of the use by the Government of the United States of the Facilities or earlier relinquishment, the United States and the Republic of the Philippines will take appropriate measures as they shall jointly determine to ensure a smooth transition with respect to custody and control of the Facilities and in order to minimize any disruptive effects of such termination."

As the title indicates, the above provision refers to the need to smooth out procedural arrangements concerning the transfer of buildings, structures and other property. It does not contemplate or authorize an extension. This agreement is valid only for so long as it implements the mandate of the Constitution; it cannot authorize anything prohibited by the Constitution. And an extension, unless authorized by a treaty, is prohibited by the Constitution.

Assuming for the sake of argument that a three-year stay beyond the constitutional deadline is not an extension, does it mean Mrs. Aquino can now enter into an executive agreement that bypasses the Senate?

No. The opinion of Mrs. Aquino's advisers to the contrary notwithstanding, the Constitution forbids it. Such an agreement, being an agreement between two nations, would fall under the definition of an international agreement, and Article VII, Section 21 provides: "No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate."

How in the world then can Mrs. Aquino and the senators who support the three-year withdrawal period think of entering into an agreement that leaves out the Senate?

The real obstacle to Mrs. Aquino's desire to extend the stay of the U.S. forces is not any ill feeling on the part of any group of Filipinos against the U.S. And it is sheer paranoia on the part of some Americans to think that there is an upsurge of anti-Americanism in the Philippines. There is none, even among the senators who rejected the proposed treaty on September 16, 1991.

What we have in this country is nothing but a fresh assertion of dignity and self-respect that cannot and must not be mistaken for hatred against the Americans. What the 12 anti-treaty senators have done was simply to comply with the directive of the Constitution, which is beyond their power to set aside or ignore.

And what Senate President Jovito Salonga and Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile are doing in insisting on a one-year withdrawal is nothing but trying to keep faith with the express directive of the Constitution.

The Constitution has set the anti-bases policy, and until the Constitution is amended, it may be set aside only at the risk of disturbing the constitutional order.

The bases issue is a serious issue that must be vigorously debated between the administration and its critics, but the administration cannot have such vigor as to go to the extent of bending the Constitution. For no government can bend its own Constitution without breaking it, and everything else is bound to break once the Constitution is broken.

Mrs. Aquino showed no respect for the Constitution when she set aside the 1973 Constitution on the pretext that it was the handiwork of a dictatorship. She showed little respect for it when on her own authority she decreed a so-called Freedom Constitution to replace what she had discarded, and later named 48 men and women to write a new Constitution for a country that had installed her in office via people power. Having ordained her own Constitution, the least she can do is to pay it a little more respect than she had accorded its predecessor. But she seems to believe that since the Constitution is nothing but her creation, it cannot possibly impose anything on its creator.

Marcos' Remains Allowed To Return to Ilocos

HK0910095091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 9 Oct 91

[By Sonny Casulla of DZRH Unit No. 9]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has concurred with a proposal by congressmen belonging to the Northern Alliance to allow the body of former President Ferdinand Marcos to return to the country on condition that it is flown directly from Honolulu to Ilocos Norte. Fourteen of the 24-member alliance, led by Congressman Luis Chavit Singson of Ilocos Sur, met with President Aquino at Malacanang. Singson offered to coordinate the orderly return of Marcos' remains to the country.

Nonetheless, Mrs. Aquino said that the former first lady should give a letter authorizing the Northern Alliance as the official coordinator for returning the said body. The president also said that authorization is necessary because Mrs. Marcos is fickle.

In an interview, Singson said that the remains of the former president will be brought directly to Batac, Sarat, Ilocos Norte. According to Singson, the president of the alliance swore that they will be answerable for any possible trouble which may result from the return of Marcos' remains.

It can be recalled that the president assured recently that the body of the former president would be returned to the country within the period of her term. Earlier, Mrs. Marcos announced her intention to return to the Philippines on 4 November to face charges filed against the Marcoses.

Thailand

Asa Discusses Foreign Policy at Asia Society

BK0610030091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Oct 91 p B3

["Excerpts" of speech by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin to the Asia Society in New York on 30 September]

[Text] Our first priority is to help put the country back on the road to parliamentary democracy. We expect the draft constitution to be approved by the National Legislative Assembly and promulgated by December. The Government is preparing to hold general elections early next year. It will be the principal task of the government to ensure that the election process is clean and fair.

Our second priority, which is no less important, is to ensure that the country is on the path of steady economic growth. The Thai economy has been performing well in recent years, registering one of the world's highest growth rates. This year, we expect the economy to grow at a rate of eight per cent. Our over-riding objective is to maintain and strengthen the country's competitiveness. Towards this end, we are proceeding with measures to further liberalize the economy—deregulation, step-by-step privatization, reform of the tax system and improving our infrastructure. The key is to reduce government's role and allow the private sector to complete freely but fairly in an open market.

Substantial economic reforms have taken place during the past few months. The government has for example:

—significantly cut the tariff for automobiles and computers;
—freed interest rates and decontrolled the price of oil and many other items;
—reduced income taxes;

—decided to introduce the Value-Added Tax in 1992;
—set the framework within which the approval procedure for multi-million dollar project proposals will be transparent to the public, fair to bidders and sound to the economy.

However, our economic development policy would come to naught if we fail to uplift the quality of life of the people, especially the poor and under-privileged who have so far been marginalized. We duly recognize that growth in the past years have been at the expense of greater income disparities and deterioration of the environment. That is why this government is seeking growth that also promotes social justice. Let me mention just a few targets:

—to increase compulsory education from six to nine years;
—to reduce population growth from 1.6 per cent to 1.2 per cent;
—to create 2.8 million jobs;
—to develop growth centres in the major towns outside of Bangkok;
—to undertake extensive land reforms within seven years;
—to pass into law a bill seeking to enchance the role and legitimate rights of women.

I know many of you in this room remain concerned about the political change which took place in Thailand last February and its implications for the country's political and economic development.

I believe that if you look at the steps that have been taken so far—appoinment of a civilian-led government, the abolition of martial law and press censorship, the drafting of a new constitution and the announcement of a time-frame for the next election—you will see that all these steps point to a speedy and steady return to democracy in Thailand. I can assure you that none of us in the interim government intends to stay in office a day longer than necessary.

As far as the economic front is concerned, Thailand has always pursued a market-oriented and free enterprise economic policies. I believe that the kind of eonomic liberalization measures being vigoriously undertaken by this government should not only strengthen Thailand's economic position, but also prove conducive to the interests of foreign business community in Thailand.

The Government has also set a definite and realistic agenda on foreign relations. Our immediate focus is on Southeast Asia. We want to create a peaceful environment as a necessary basis for greater regional cooperation.

With the prospects of peace returning to Indochina, we are witnessing a new era emerging in Southeast Asia. With ideology no longer a major factor in international relations, I beleive that economic cooperation can now become the new rallying point of regional cooperation throughout Southeast Asia.

We are also seriously tackling the issues of drug addiction and trafficking as well as the AIDS problem. Our Legislative Assembly recently passed a bill which would allow the authorities to seize the asseets of those who either engage or conspire in the drug trade. Existing law on prostitution will be amended so that men and women who exploit prostitutes rather than the prostitutes themselves will be punished.

Environmental protection issues also rank high on the agenda of this government. They range from halting the further destruction of our forests, solving the problem of water and air pollution and protecting Thailand's depleting wildlife. Admittedly, in the past, we have not given much attention to issues of the environment. The situation is now being rectified. A new law aimed at providing greater protection for wildlife will soon be promulgated.

We do not want to see a Southeast Asia divided into camps and blocs as in the past. We want to see a united community of Southeast Asian nations working together to advance peace, stability and progress of the region as a whole. By virtue of geography, I believe that Thailand is in a position to serve as tne political and economic link between ASEAN and the rest of Southeast Asia, namely Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar (Burma).

In our relations with our immediate neighbours in Indochina, the Government is seeking to put behind past conflicts, to mend broken ties, to build up a climate of trust and confidence and to lay a framework for peaceful coexistence and cooperation. Our objective is to work towards the gradual integration of Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and eventually Myanmar (Burma) as well, into the mainstream of Southeast Asia.

The process of accommodation among the regional states has been facilitating the progress in the Cambodian peace process. The Cambodian problem has for almost 13 years been the crux of regional conflict and tension. The efforts of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the co-chairmen of the Paris Conference have contributed a major way to advance the peace process. But perhaps most important of all has been the emerging spirit of genuine national reconciliation among the Cambodian parties themselves that has accounted for the successes that were achieved at the recent meetings of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia in a Thai seaside resort of Phatthaya, Beijing and New York.

Our relations with Laos have improved considerably over the past year. The mutual withdrawal of troops from disputed border areas did much to reduce tension between the two countries. There have also been a number of exchanges of visit between government and military leaders which have done much to dispel misunderstanding of the past.

Our relations with Vietnam have in the past been marked by tension and misunderstanding, which are an unfortunate legacy of the Vietnam War and which has

been compounded by the Cambodian conflict. But as in the case of Laos, our relationship with Vietnam is now much more constructive. Hanoi is now well aware that to overcome Vietnam's mounting economic difficulties, trade and investment with the outside world are essential.

I have just returned from a visit to Vietnam and one positive outcome of my visit there was Hanoi's decision to accede to the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia to which all the ASEAN countries are signatories. The Treaty sets out the basic principles for peaceful and cooperative relations among all countries of the region.

The Thai Government would not achieve much in its efforts to create a peaceful environment for her neighbouring countries if Thailand pretends that Myanmar (Burma) does not exist or share a long border with her. I know the subject of Myanmar (Burma) is controversial because of the human rights situation there. I had extensive discussions with Secretary Baker on this issue at the recent ASEAN Post Ministerial conference in Kuala Lumpur. Thailand and ASEAN are also concerned about the situation in Myanmr (Burma). As neighbouring countries, nevertheless we do not believe in isolating Myanmar (Burma).

We beleive the United States is correct in maintaining contact with China. Similarly, contact with Myanmar (Burma) should be maintained. Constructive engagement will also benefit the people of Myanmar (Burma).

If peace is to be viable and durable in Southeast Asia, ASEAN, which is recognized as one of the most successful regional groupings must remain the anchor of regional stability and prosperity. It is the close political cooperation and cohesiveness which have been the hallmark of ASEAN's success. If ASEAN is to be at the forefront in the shaping of a new regional order in Southeast Asia, it must seek to strengthen itself and gear itself to challenges that lie ahead.

In addition to the challenge of building a new regional order, ASEAN also faces the pressing challenge of greater economic competition in the world. The GATT talks remain stalled. We see the emergence of trade blocs. Countries are adopting unilateralism, bilateralism and managed trade. Under these circumstances, ASEAN needs to move towards a higher level of economic cooperation.

That is why Thailand has proposed the establishment of an ASEAN Free Trade Area by the turn of the century. This proposal has now receive the backing of other ASEAN countries. Indonesia has also proposed a common effective tariff scheme as a means to liberalize trade within ASEAN. The Philippines has also proposed the conclusion of an ASEAN Economic Cooperation Treaty. We see these proposals as mutually reinforcing steps in the direction of enchanced intra-ASEAN economic cooperation.

Vietnam Releases 50 Thai Fishermen 8 Oct

BK0910061191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Oct 91 p A2

[Text] Vietnam has released 50 Thai fishermen, arrested for trespassing into its territorial waters last year and early this year, in order to strengthen the relationship between the two countries, according to a [Thai] Foreign Ministry press release issued yesterday.

The crewmen arrived in Bangkok yesterday from Ho Chi Minh City.

The ministry relayed a report from the Thai Embassy in Hanoi saying the Peoples' Committee of Vung Tau Province had freed 50 crewmen from six vessels which were apprehended last year and early this year for violating Vietnam's territorial waters.

The release of the fishermen was said to be a gesture of goodwill by Vietnam which is improving its ties with Thailand.

SRV Ambassador on Detention of Thai Fishermen

BK0910054591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Oct 91 p 19

[Text] Thailand should not make the unconditional release of all Thai fishermen detained in Vietnam a condition for joint fishery cooperation with the country, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand said yesterday.

Ambassador Nguyen Trung told Business Post that Vietnam wanted to cooperate in a spirit of "fairness and mutual benefits."

Mr Trung said he was "not very happy" with press reports quoting Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon as saying bilateral fishery cooperation hinged on the release of all Thai fishermen currently held in Vietnam.

On his official visit to Hanoi last month, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin secured "a gesture of goodwill," whereby Thailand would free 150 Vietnamese fishermen jailed in Thailand while Vietnam would release 354 Thai fishermen detained in a southern Vietnamese province.

"The release of 354 Thais in (the southern province) is just a gesture of goodwill, and not a reward for the cooperation with Thailand on fisheries," the ambassador said.

According to informed sources, there were 501 Thai fishermen detained in Vietnam.

Thai and Vietnamese officials are finalising a draft for an umbrella agreement for joint fishery activities in which Thailand will invest in related activities such as processing and storage facilities in Vietnam, as well as fish for marine resources.

The agreement is expected to be signed during Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to Thailand from October 28-30.

A team of officials from Vietnam's Fisheries Ministry arrived in Bangkok yesterday to continue negotiations with their Thai counterparts on the draft agreement and another draft agreement on energy cooperation.

Thailand has proposed joint exploration and use of natural gas which is in abundance off Vietnam's southern coast.

"The Thai fishermen now in Vietnam are those who violated our water territories and are thus detained," Mr Trung said.

"They must be prosecuted in accordance with our laws and we have asked the Thai companies and the Thai authorities many times to deal with these violaters according to our law."

Owners of the seized trawlers had "ignored the problem and (left the detainees) there for too long," he said.

"This is a very irresponsible behaviour on the Thai side."

The ambassador said past cooperation agreements had failed because the two countreis "simply did not respect each other's laws, especially about the sea" and warned the current agreement could fail unless both parties were more aware of the situation.

"We want to release all (Thai detainees) at once, but according to our law, they must pay the bail because they violated our territory and the penalty is necessary to prevent the offence from recurring.

"The process is very important to create the mutual trust (needed) for cooperation.

"Therefore, let's make it very clear that if we are not aware of it, we may fail again."

Vietnam wants to see the fisheries cooperation scheme start on a modest scale and later expand.

Mr Trung said the Thai side had made it clear that it was trying to put its own house in order.

Mr Asa's delegation told the Vietnamese it wanted to create new possiblities for cooperation.

The establishment of the National Fishery Committee and other plans underway are the result of Thailand's awareness of the problems and efforts to solve them.

Work to set up a school in Chumphon to train skippers and fishermen for overseas fishing activities could start this month, with a budget of about 200 million baht earmarked for the school.

The Government also plans to hold training courses to educate captains and related personnel on international maritime law and practices.

"We want our people to be law-abiding citizens. Moreover, such coordination will, in the future, enable better control and monitoring of Thai fishing activities overseas," Dr At said.

Mr Trung said he was "a little optimistic" about the energy agreement because the two sides had similar views.

Several favourable conditions exist for the joint energy deal, including the closeness of the two countries, he said.

Thailand has proposed that natural gas products be transported from the south of Vietnam to Thailand via a gas pipeline in the Gulf of Thailand.

"Until now, both sides have agreed that they would try to find every possibility to organise cooperation on the principle that after responding to domestic demand in Vietnam for gas, we would make the first priority to export to Thailand," he said.

The problem is finalising details in the limited time between now and the Vietnamese Prime Minister's visit.

Delegation Attends ESCAP Conference in Manila

BK0810035091 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Michai Wirawaithaya is leading a Thai delegation to attend the ongoing fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development in Manila, the Philippines.

The five-day conference scheduled for 7-11 October is aimed at reviewing the social situation of the region. Apart from seeking a fresh approach to social development, the conference will also consider for adoption of strategies to improve the quality of life of the people in Asia and the Pacific.

Participating in the ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] meeting are ministers and senior officials from 28 developed and developing nations, which are members and associate members of ESCAP. Germany, a non-member state of ESCAP is also attending the five-day conference inaugurated by President of the Philippines Corazon Aquino on Monday.

Suchinda Denies Irregularities in Arms Purchases

BK0910062391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Oct 91 p A2

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday the military had never gained "commission" from arms purchase.

The military chief, who has sued politician Chaturon Kotchasi for alleging that irregularities were behind arms

deals of the military, said anybody skeptical about armed forces leaders' honesty should "ask the arms companies."

"People keep saying the military has received commission. No, we have never got that kind of money. It's agents who were paid commission," Suchinda said.

Deputy Supreme Commander Gen Wimon Wongwanit, meanwhile, said yesterday the military would not withdraw against Chaturon.

"His statement was an insult," Wimon, who is also deputy defence minister, said of Chaturon.

Air Force Commander in Chief Kaset Rotchananin yesterday also threatened to sue anybody who linked him to corruption scandals.

"If people make remarks that are unfair to me, I will sue them," he said.

Minister Opposes Retroactive Patent Protection

BK0910060391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Oct 91 p A3

[Text] Deputy Public Health Minister Athasit Wetchachiwa said yesterday the patent cover for foreign pharmaceutical products should not be retroactive.

The minister also said the proposed extension of the patent production period, approved by the Economic Screening Committee, from 15 years to 20 years, should be subject to further negotiations.

He said that he had not seen the draft amendment to the Patent Act approved by the economic ministers but insisted that he would oppose the clause that would make the patent protection retroactive for existing drugs for 10 years.

Although the draft amendment to the Patent Act had been approved by the Economic Screening Committee, final approval is needed from the Cabinet.

The Public Health Ministry has opposed the amendment which has been demanded by the United States. The Cabinet may consider the issue on Oct 22.

Athasit said the Thai patent law should follow the universal standards which at present do not exist because they are under negotiations at the Uruguay Round of trade talks.

Commenting on fears that local drug manufacturers would go out of business because of the amendment to the Patent Act to give protection to foreign pharmaceutical products, the minister called on the local producers to be patient and wait for the outcome of government policy.

Meanwhile, an informed source at the Commerce Ministry said that once the patent law is amended, foreign drugs already protected by foreign patent laws would be included in the prescription list of the Thai Food and Drug Administration [FDA] but not the new Patent Act, which would only cover new drugs.

Drug listed by the Thai FDA cannot be sold by those which do not have licences.

Columnist on Rift Between NPKC, Chawalit

BK0610020091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Oct 91 p 4

["Weekend Analysis" by Banyat Thatsaniyawet]

[Text] The relationship between top leaders of the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] and New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut have ripped to shreds much more quickly than most people expected.

This is particularly so after Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun announced he would take drastic action against politicians and activists who mobilise during the World Bank-IMF meeting.

Ironically, Gen Suchinda issued his ultimatum on the day he took over the post of Supreme Commander on Tuesday from Gen Chawalit's close friend, Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong.

The Army chief did not name the politicians he claimed were reportedly planning to use the international meeting to cause problems and disturbances.

He simply said that certain politicians were moving with student, teacher and environmentalist groups to stage a display of strength that would be damaging to the country's international image.

"We will not take action against the pawns but will take action against the kings and knights," the Army chief said.

Although he did not mention any names, it is generally understood that Gen Suchinda was referring to his Chulachomklao "elder brother" Gen Chawalit, who has been politically active since his resignation from the military.

In recent months Gen Chawalit has changed his strategy from fighting against what he has described as an undemocratic draft Constitution, to the fight against what he described as the "vicious circle."

That vicious circle is the staging of a coup d'etat followed by the drafting of a new Constitution, the holding of elections, the formation of a government, and finally another coup d'etat.

Gen Chawalit has been meeting former student activists from the October 14, 1973 period, a link-up that has made the NPKC leadership uneasy, promoting words of warning from generals Suchinda and Itsaraphong Nunpakdi, informed sources said.

Most recently, Gen Suchinda said that Gen Chawalit's campaigning should not result in political "confusion" while Gen Itsaraphong said that he would not allow political parties to cause unrest in the country.

The most recent comment by Gen Suchinda of taking action against those behind the pawns marks the turning away from each other of the two prominent generals, both seen as top candidates for prime minister.

Even though it is an open secret that ties between the two are strained, whatever shreds have been linking the two now appear severed completely.

Gen Chawalit's supporters feel that Gen Suchinda's most recent comment marks another job at their leader, a job following a string of events perceived a rocking the NAP.

They cite the fact that the electoral law under the Constitution bars Gen Chawalit from running in the Northeast and restricts him to running in Bangkok or Nonthaburi.

They also say that Army officers who followed Gen Chawalit and served him during his political campaigning have been ordered back to their barracks, another attempt to torpedo the NAP machine.

A more crucial issue is the Samakkhi Tham's push for a party slate electoral system.

Politicians know well that the electoral system predetermines the destiny of politicians and parties and is crucial to the prospects of new parties such as NAP and Samakkhi Tham.

With prospects that the system will be a party slate system, political party sources said Samakkhi Tham is enjoying a rush of former MPs to join its ranks.

There's no doubt among politicians that Samakkhi Tham, with its close links with Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, is bubbling with confidence.

During a meeting of potential party candidates in Khon Kaen recently, the Samakkhi Tham top brass promised former MPs a number of things if they decided to join the party.

The party said it would give each candidate an initial 500,000 baht for their election campaign, sources said. Another three million will follow, they said.

The party also said it will become the core party in forming the next coalition government and that if the electoral system turns out to become the old, single constituency system, potential candidates can join any party they wish.

Political analysts note that the systematic assistance promised by Samakkhi Tham has proven effective and persuaded a number of former MPs who earlier decided to join the NAP to make an about face.

The NAP on the other hand looks good, said one source. Gen Chawalit appears at provincial meetings with considerable fanfare, although the party has not mentioned anything concrete about assisting party candidates, one source said.

In some provinces it still remains uncertain whether or not the NAP will be able to find candidates to run under the party banner, the sources said.

For now, it appears fortune favours Samakkhi Tham. But the winds of fortune can still change, depending on which electoral system is adopted.

In the meantime the struggle at the top, between two top generals, and that at the bottom, between two new political parties, will continue.

Cabinet Rejects Ending Direct Village Elections

BK0910055991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Oct 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday rejected the Interior Ministry's proposal to end direct elections of tambon and village leaders.

The Cabinet, however, resolved to endorse another proposal by the ministry to fix the new grassroots administrators' term at five years.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun indicated yesterday that he did not care whether the Cabinet's decision not to endorse the ministry's proposal to end the direct elections would disappoint some people.

"I don't know if it will please or displease some people," Anan said. "But the Cabinet has thoroughly considered the matter and thinks that it will be better to allow the villagers to go on electing their own leaders."

The Local Administration Department, strongly backed by Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, planned to replace the direct elections of the local administrators with a more complicated system.

The system would have allowed villagers the right only to nominate five candidates for each post of village headman, with the final decision resting with provincial committees headed by the provincial governor.

The Cabinet's decision yesterday came after the Government Screening Committee on Security Affairs refused two weeks ago to endorse the Interior Ministry's new legislation to change the election system.

After being snubbed by the screening committee, the Interior Ministry was still adamant in its proposal to end the direct elections. As a result, the committee passed the matter on to the Cabinet.

Deputy Interior Minister Charoenchit na Songkhla said the ministry would not defy the Cabinet's decision.

"The interior minister has earlier said the ministry will respect the final say of the Cabinet," Charoenchit said.

Government Spokeswoman Ladawan Wongsiwong said the amendment to the Local Administrative Act of B.E. 2457 (1914) would have a provisional clause allowing current grassroots administrators to stay in their posts until reaching their retirement at the age of 60.

The decision not to end the direct elections was promptly welcomed by the Association of Northeastern Village Headmen and Khamnan.

The association vice president, Pramual Bothai, said he was glad that the government had listened to the public view.

Seri Chaikitti, a village headman in Buri Ram Province, said the development of democracy would be enhanced when villagers could exercise their right to choose their leaders every five years.

20,000 Villagers Rally Against Park Plan

BK0910052991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Oct 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Samut Prakan—About 20,000 villagers from six tambons in Bang Kachao rallied at a school in Phra Pradaeng District yesterday to oppose the government's plan to expropriate their land and preserve it as a "lung" for Bangkok.

They asked that farmers, who constitute about 60 percent of the population, be allowed to stay in the area with state financial support to improve the land for agriculture and keep it green.

The villagers, waving banners opposing the plan, gathered at Wisut Kasattri School to hear explanations of Government policy on Bang Kachao from National Environment Board secretary-general Athon Suphapodok and his deputy, Santhat Somchiwita.

Some of them even said they would cut down all the trees if the land is to be expropriated.

Mr Athon told them the Government adopted the plan because some of the land had deteriorated and yielded less produce every year, causing some villagers to sell their land to investors. The Government itself wants to buy the land with a minimal effect on villagers.

The National Housing Authority will be responsible for arranging housing for about 8,000 families to be moved from the area, he said, adding that densely populated communities, industrial zones and such facilities as schools, temples and health centres will not be affected.

His explanation was greeted with shouts of disapproval.

Narong Ratsamithat, a villagers' representative, said investors who have bought about 40 percent of the land from the villagers are glad to cooperate with the Government. They will not be able to develop the land for resorts townhouses and other properties, so will be happy to resell to the state.

But villagers who still own their land will not cooperate, he said. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

MIA Link With Better U.S. Ties Rejected

BK0810120291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1043 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi, Oct 8 (AFP)—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam rejected Tuesday U.S. demands that the issue of missing American servicemen be resolved before Washington establishes diplomatic ties with Hanoi.

"The U.S. has made the MIA (missing-in-action) issue a condition for normalizing ties with us. We cannot accept this," Cam said in his first meeting with foreign journalists since being named foreign minister in August.

"Vietnam has always considered the MIA issue as a humanitarian issue and does not link it to a political one," he said.

Cam said Hanoi would continue its efforts to account for the more than 1,700 American servicemen who went missing in Vietnam—as well as the tens of thousands of missing Vietnamese—whether or not Washington agrees to set up diplomatic ties.

"But if relations are normalized it will create better conditions to resolve this issue," he said.

Cam, who served most recently as Hanoi's ambassador to Moscow, took over as foreign minister from Nguyen Co Thach, a strong proponent of ties with the West.

With a Cambodian peace treaty due to be signed October 23, the MIA issue has emerged as the most prominent obstacle to normalization between Washington and Hanoi.

U.S. Presidential envoy John Vessey, who met for several hours on the issue with Cam here last week, told the foreign minister that the United States needed more concrete results to show Vietnam was cooperating fully with the MIA search, according to sources close to the talks.

Cam said that Vietnam had made clear its good will on the issue by helping U.S. researchers investigate the "completely absurd" photos released earlier this year purporting to show Americans still held prisoner in Indochina.

In addition to the servicemen who went missing in Vietnam, about 1,500 others are listed as unaccounted for in Laos and Cambodia because their bodies were never recovered.

Washington has set settlement of the Cambodian conflict, resolution of the MIA issue and release of former Saigon officials from re-education camps as conditions for normalizing ties and lifting its crippling trade embargo against Vietnam.

Cam complained that each time Vietnam met one condition for normalization, the United States imposed another.

"We have taken some steps. The U.S. side should take some steps to match our steps," he said.

The foreign minister said Vessey also asked Vietnam to review the files of the remaining re-education camp inmates—officially numbered at "less than 200"—and see if they could be released.

Cam said he did not think the re-education camp inmate issue would be an obstacle to normalization.

Minister Reacts to Sweden's Democracy Demands

BK0810151091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi, Oct 8 (AFP)—Vietnam hopes the election of a right-wing government in Sweden will not hurt ties between Hanoi and its biggest remaining aid donor, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said Tuesday.

Cam was reacting to a threat by Sweden's new prime minister, Carl Bildt, to cut off all aid unless Hanoi makes clear progress toward democracy.

"Vietnam is expanding democracy" as part of its policy of do moi, or economic, social and political rennovation introduced in 1987, Cam said when asked about Bildt's remarks.

Specifically, Cam said the Vietnamese people were being consulted on major Communist Party policy papers and elections were held with more candidates than seats.

But he said that Vietnam's progress toward democracy was being made in line with its own needs and could not necessarily be measured with a Western yardstick.

"How to assess, that is the problem," he said. "But we hope that the changes in Sweden won't affect existing relations between Vietnam and Sweden."

A succession of Social Democratic governments have provided substantial aid to Hanoi for two decades, including 300 million kronor (50 million dollars) through the Swedish International Development Agency in 1990.

The 1991 aid budget was increased to 325 million kronor (53 million dollars), before the September 15 elections that swept Bildt's Moderate party to power in a coalition with other parties.

The changes in Eastern Europe in the past two years—reflected in the evaporation of aid from the socialist bloc to Vietnam—have left Sweden as Vietnam's single largest aid donor.

"It doesn't seem to make much sense to cut aid now when Vietnam is making changes and other countries are just starting to come in," said one Swedish aid worker. "But I'm worried."

Chairman Vo Van Kiet Meets Japanese Ambassador

BK0810084091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet on 2 October received in Hanoi Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Hiroyuki Yushita who paid a courtesy call on him.

On this occasion, Chairman Vo Van Kiet held cordial talks with the Japanese ambassador.

Receives DPRK Envoy 7 Oct

BK0910090891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet today received Yi Hong, ambassador extraordinary plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to our country, who came to see him. Chairman Vo Van Kiet cordially talked with Ambassador Yi Hong.

Friendship Group Sends Support Message to Cuba

BK0810150591 Hanoi VNA in English 1431 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct 8—Mrs Nguyen Thi Dinh, president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association, today sent a message to the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples, expressing solidarity with and strong support for the Cuban people in the struggle to defend their independence, sovereignty and revolutionary gains.

The message says that the Vietnamese people "fully support Cuba's legitimate demands for an end to the US economic blockade against Cuba, the complete withdrawal of US troops and military personnel from Guatanamo Base and the return of that territory to Cuba, as mentioned in Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca's Oct. 1st speech before the U.N General Assembly".

It also expressed the firm belief that the Cuban people would overcome all difficulties and trials.

Economic Group Attends Meeting in Jakarta

BK0410152591 Hanoi VNA in English 1420 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 4—A Vietnamese Government economic delegation led by Minister of Commerce and Tourism Le Van Triet has paid a visit to Indonesia and attended the first meeting of the joint Vietnam-Indonesia Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Jakarta at the invitation of the Indonesian minister of commerce.

The two ministers discussed measures to broaden commercial, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in the coming period in order to promote traditional friendship and mutually beneficial relations.

A memorandum of the talks was signed by the two ministers on October 1.

While in Indonesia, Minister Le Van Triet was cordially received by President Sukarto.

The delegation also called on various ministries and met several Indonesian businessmen, and visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in Jakarta.

Organizations Hold Get-Together for Iraqis

BK0510163491 Hanoi VNA in English 1553 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct.5—A get-together in solidarity with the Iraqi people has been jointly orgnaised here by the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation (VNUPSFO), the Vietnam-Iraq Friendship Association (VIFA) and the VIFA chapter of the machine assembly enterprise of the Ministry of Construction.

The ambassadors and charge d'affaires of many Arab countries attended the meeting.

Iraqi charge d'affaires a.i. briefed the audience on the situation in Iraq, especially the difficulties the Iraqi people are facing as a result of the Gulf war.

Trinh Ngoc Thai, vice president of the VNUPSFO, expressed the Vietmanese people's deep sympathy with the plight of the Iraqi people especially children, women and aged persons and called for emergency aid of the international community to the Iraqi people.

Light Industry Minister Visits Belgium

BK0610144891 Hanoi VNA in English 1359 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 6—Light Industry Minister Dang Vu Chu visited Belgium from Sept. 23-26 at the invitation of the U.C.O. [expansion unknown] group.

While there Minister Dang Vu Chu met with senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Cooperation and Development, and discussed with them possibilities of cooperation in light industry between Vietnam and Belgium.

He also visited some textile mills and textile machinery factories, and exchanged views with the leadership of the U.C.O group and other Belgian industrialists on possibilities of cooperation in improving and modernizing some light industrial establishments in Vietnam.

4 Joint-Ventures With Foreign Firms Approved

BK0810063591 Hanoi VNA in English 0611 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct.8—Four foreign investment projects were licenced last week by the State Commission for Foreign Cooperation and Investment. They involve a combined prescribed capital of US dollar 5.7 million, with 3.64 million contributed by the foreign partners.

The first licence is for Vipho Co. Ltd, a joint venture in producing leather products for domestic consumption and export. The partners are Nam Phong Co. Ltd in the port city of Haiphong, northern Vietnam, and Trans World Enterprises Co. of Hong Kong. Vipho, headquartered in Haiphong, has a prescribed capital of US dollar 1 million and a duration of 20 years.

The second joint venture is Sagopet. It is licenced to make export rubber and plastic sandals. The principals are Phu Lam Rubber Enterprise in Ho Chi Minh City and Proletarian Victory 2 in the Soviet Union. Capital prescribed for Sagopet, whose office is in Ho Chi Minh, totals US dollar 0.5 million.

The third joint venture, registered as the Bao Loc Silk Factory and established at the town of Bao Loc in Lam Dong Province, is formed by the Vietnam Union of Silk Producers and Kinushow Co. Ltd., Japan. Its legal capital is set at US dollar 2.077 million.

The last on the list engages in ship repairing in Ho Chi Minh City. The partners to Vimsaigon Co., as the joint venture is called, are Saigon Shipyards and Vostokinvestmore, an enterprise in the Soviet Union. Vimsaigon's legal capital totals US dollar 2.15 million.

Altogether 32 countries and regions have made investment in Vietnam.

Ho Chi Minh City Receives Family Planning Aid

BK0510075791 Hanoi VNA in English 0609 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 5—The Population and Family Planning Centre of Ho Chi Minh City has received Japanese yen 1,736,000 and HKD [Hong Kong dollars] 36,000 worth of aid from from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) for the implementation of the project codenamed VIE/89/P04.

The aid includes a car and a number of equipment [and] will help the centre in training service personnel and disseminating population and family planning programmes.

Nguyen Khanh Tours Flash Flood-Stricken Areas

BK0810135291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] From 30 September-2 October, Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh and a team of specialists inspected the flash flood-stricken provinces of Dong Thap and Long An.

They were accompanied by Minister of Education and Vocational Training Tran Hong Quan and UNICEF resident representatives in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh had a working session with the comrade leading officials of the aforementioned provinces, discussing measures for overcoming the serious consequences of the flash floods.

Nguyen Huu Tho Inspects Flood-Stricken Areas

BK0810134391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] On 3 October, Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee Presidium, visited compatriots in the flash flood-stricken provinces of Tien Giang and Long An.

The comrade visited a number of areas and assessed the damage caused to the local compatriots by the flash floods. He had working sessions with the local leading officials, discussing the precautions against flash floods and measures for overcoming their consequences.

Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho expressed the central government's sympathy and deep concern for the local compatriots. He commended the local party organizations and people for having taken the initiative in predicting the situation and for having taken positive measures to overcome difficulties, thus greatly reducing the consequences of the flash floods. He also praised them for having worked out plans to restore production immediately after the water has receded.

He called the attention of local leading officials to the fact that more difficulties may lie ahead because of the complicated development of the situation. Therefore, everyone must remain constantly vigilant and work out positive measures to respond to the people's essential needs.

Directive on Natural Disaster Reduction Issued

BK0710102191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report on Chairman of the Council of Ministers' Directive Issued on 1 October 1991 on the Anniversary of the International Day for Natural Disasters Reduction in Vietnam]

[Text] 1. Authorize the National Committee of the International Day for Natural Disasters Reduction—which is called in short as IDNDR—to organize nationwide the anniversaries of the IDNDR in the decade of 1990-2000.

2. This is the first year of our country's membership in the IDNDR. In order to practically commemorate this, heads of ministerial offices and central organs and chairmen of people's committee of cities and provinces in the country are to set up working plans for their own sector and locality with the guide of the IDNDR National Committee to work with the IDNDR for the 1990-2000 period.

Depending on their own function, the ministerial offices and central organs are to study and organize the implementation of national strategic policies and line on prevention and reduction of national disasters nationwide as well as in every region.

The IDNDR National Committee is to coordinate with the Ministry of Culture, Information, and Sports in guiding the central and local mass media agencies to launch propaganda programs on the meaning, purpose, and working plans of the IDNDR in Vietnam.

All mass and social organizations of youths, women, workers, and peasants are to motivate their members to heighten the sense of self-reliance in active prevention and reduction of natural disasters, thus contributing their worthy share in the IDNDR undertaking.

The IDNDR National Committee is to closely coordinate with the Central Steering Committee for Typhoon and Flash Floods Control and related offices to organize the first anniversary of the IDNDR in Vietnam in a simple, practical, and economical manner but meeting the external relations requirements and international practice.

New Hanoi-Mon Cai Microwave Line Implemented

BK0510075191 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 5—A 195-km-long digital microwave communication line in Quang Ninh Province, northeast of Hanoi, has been put to use.

This is the longest intra-provincial digital microwave communication line in the country, which consists of 30 channels and four relay stations, built with local budget and equipment from the Awa firm of Australia.

The newly-built communication line helps facilitating communications within the province as well as its links with different localities in the country and the world.

Industrial Production Increase Reported

BK0510162691 Hanoi VNA in English 1547 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 5—In the first nine months of this year, Vietnam's heavy industry production increased by 39.8 percent over the corresponding period last year, representing 78.2 percent of the yearly programme.

The biggest rises were recorded in the production of fertilizer, chemicals and oil. In the period under review, 2.8 million tons of crude oil were tapped, 99,000 tons of rolled and construction steel produced and 1,328 tons of tin exported. Noteworthy was that the production of nitrogenous fertilizer doubled the figure of last year while the output of phosphoric and npk fertilizer almost reached the yearly plans set early this year.

In addition, the Ministry of Heavy Industry has expanded its cooperation with foreign companies in the areas of oil and gas prospection and production, mineral exploration and mining fertilizer chemicals and electronic components and assembly. [sentence as received]

Ho Chi Minh City Industrial Output Increases

BK0410070691 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 4—Ho Chi Minh City's industrial output in the first nine months of this year was valued at VN [Vietnamese] dong 3,122 billion, up by 7.2 percent compared with the same period last year.

The centrally run and locally run industries saw 18.6 percent and 5.2 percent increases respectively.

Noticeably, the fertlizer production was up by 63.8 percent, food processing by 11 percent, construction materials by 27 percent, tailoring by 25 percent, metallurgy by 67.3 percent, and textile by 16 percent.

Agricultural Production Activities Reported

BK0610044491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Summary] "The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry reported that northern peasants had thus far harvested almost 200,000 hectares of 10th-month rice with fine results, especially in Vinh Phu and Ha Bac Provinces where the average yield was more than 35 quintals per hectares; Ha Nam Ninh Province, 36.5 quintals; Hai Hung Province, 37 quintals; and Thai Binh Province, 43.5 quintals per hectare."

Generally speaking, the 10th-month rice in northern Vietnam was developing satisfactorily with fewer harmful insects threatening the ricefield as compared with the previous year.

The nation has also harvested a bumper summer-fall rice crop. In the Mekong River Delta alone the summer-fall rice production output increased by 40,000 tonnes as compared with the previous year.

"The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry urged that during the next 10 days, northern localities should concentrate efforts on quickly harvesting the ripened ricefields, planting winter crops according to schedule, and formulating plans to protect the 10th-month rice crop until completing the harvest work."

Provinces in the Mekong River Delta should promptly survey damage caused by the recent flash floods, map out plans to overcome the consequences of the natural calamity, strive to fulfill the 10th-month rice planting plan, and satisfactorily reserve seeds and materials for the 1991-92 winter-spring rice crop.

Timber Exploitation Regulations Said Changed

BK0510151691 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] According to the Ministry of Forestry, beginning from 1992 the ratification of annual plans for timber exploitation will be carried out on the basis of the four requirements to be met by various units and localities concerning exploitation plans, reafforestation plans, processing plans, and draft export plans.

In the past, this task was only based on project planning aimed at limiting irrationalities, thus creating loopholes in management. Along with changing the methods of ratifying timber exploitation plans, the Ministry of Forestry advocates the separation of the task of organizing timber exploitation from forestry sites.

All forestry sites will only be responsible for managing and counting trees and organizing the sales of trees according to the plans that have been ratified. Forestry sites will keep two-thirds of the value of the sale of trees for use in the development of production and management and protection of forests, while turning in the rest to the state budget in the form of natural resource tax in place of forest preservation money as at present.

Australia

South Africa's Botha Warns Against Interference

BK0810103091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Canberra, Oct 8 (AFP)—South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha made it clear to his Australian hosts Tuesday that he thinks Australia should focus on Asia and steer clear of South Africa. "I don't want to poke my nose in your affairs, but you have been doing it with mine for years," he told the National Press Club here. "Australia should concentrate on Asia. There's your future. Our future lies in Africa." In a wide-ranging, amusing and sometimes barbed lunchtime dissertation he also told the National Press Club: —The Commonwealth was likely to become irrelevant now that South Africa was "no longer an issue"; —Sanctions had made South Africans more determined not to be dictated to by Australia and New Zealand, which had their own problems; —South Africans would not be dictated to by Commonwealth countries which "produce nothing but trouble"; —The African National Congress (ANC) was having difficulty changing from a guerrilla movement to a political party. Botha was ending a historic two-day visit to Australia in which he has talked extensively to government leaders, opinion makers and the local media. His remarks come a week before the Commonweath Heads of Government Meeting in Harare, where Commonwealth leaders will consider both the timetable for phasing out sanctions against South Africa and the organisation's future. But despite the saltiness of some of his comments he and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans have cleared the way for reciprocal visits by trade officials from the two countries. Evans told parliament Tuesday he was confident, after talks with Botha, that the visits would go ahead soon. Botha told the press club he did not think Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke would have a lot to do in Harare. South Africa had been the decisive issue for the Commonwealth for 20 years. "What have they done apart from South Africa?" he asked. "What have they done for their member states?" He said that in the new world order the Nonaligned Movement would have no reason to exist and with South Africa no longer an issue, there was little to bind the Commonwealth together. Botha said that if Australia were linked by land to Asia, as South Africa was to the rest of Africa, it would have more realistic policies and feel psychologically part of Asia. Sanctions had not caused South Africa to abandon apartheid, he said. He indicated that a fundamental difference over economic policy existed between his government and the ANC which he said remained under significant communist influence. He blamed the ANC for the failure of constitutional talks to start. The government had published its proposals and its negotiating team was ready to go to the table tomorrow, he said. Earlier, a senior ANC official Max Sisulu denied the ANC was delaying negotiations and said Botha's word was unreliable. Despite the peace accord signed by the two sides on April 10, more than 1,000 political prisoners were still in prison and many ANC supporters were still in exile.

Right wing assassination squads were still roaming over South Africa massacring blacks, he said in a radio interview.

Blacks were still dying violently every day and the government had the ability to end the violence but not the intention.

Sisulu, the ANC's economic planning head, is visiting Australia for the same purpose as Botha—to deliver a message to government officials and influential people.

But while Botha's message is that to prolong economic sanctions would be to further wound South Africa, Sisulu's is that to lift them at this stage would only further wound black South Africans.

He said while the ANC would not object to ending minor anti- apartheid sanctions such as those on visas, direct air links and cultural exchances, it still opposed South Africa's early return to "the fold of democratic societies."

The existing unfair distribution of wealth, resources, education and housing would have to be addressed.

The National Party government was still spending five times as much money on services for whites as for all blacks, while whites earned nine times as much as blacks.

Hawke Forecasts 'Big Improvement' in Economy

BK0710072291 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Bob Hawke, has forecasted a big improvement in the economy by the end of the financial year next June. Mr. Hawke said the economy was showing signs of recovery from a recession but he admitted that the recovery was not massive.

His remarks followed the release by a survey by a leading Australian bank showing that unemployment continues to worsen. The ANZ bank says the number of jobs being advertised around Australia last month fell by three percent.